

WINTER 2016

 MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Spokesman

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY



PULL-OUT POLICY BOOK

PAGE 11

SAFETY TOPICS
SAFE WINTER
DRIVING TIPS

PAGE 8

CONVENTION
PHOTO GALLERY

PAGE 28

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MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY



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ON THE COVER: FFA students judge livestock at the Bull & Heifer Show during the MFBF Annual Convention in November in Missoula.
Photo by Laura Nelson.

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Publisher | **John Youngberg**

Editor | **Rebecca Colnar**

Managing Editor | **Sue Ann Streufert**

Advertising Sales | **David Goettel**

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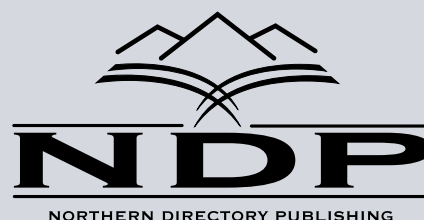
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Bob Hanson

President, Montana Farm
Bureau Federation

“...we have
persevered through
many changes over
the centuries and as
long as people
continue to eat and
need fiber, we will
continue to meet
those needs.”

The Only Constant is **Change**

The words of Francois de la Rochefoucauld, “the only constant in life is change,” ring as true today as they did in the 1600s. Over the past year we have seen significant changes in agriculture. Cattle and grain prices have dipped from all-time highs, but at the same time fuel costs are about as low as we have seen in recent years. Fossil fuels have been demonized by the Obama Administration who seems to want to eliminate coal, which is bad news for Montana workers, taxpayers and energy consumers.

Congress will be faced this coming year with a vote on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade pact with Pacific Rim countries that could bring about positive change in cattle and grain prices. Montana exports in excess of 50 percent of our production, so lowering tariffs with our trade partners means the potential for more trade which equates to higher prices. This will be especially noticeable in the beef trade where some of our largest customers will reduce tariffs and could bring prices back to those of a year ago. The agreement, while positive for grain and bean markets, will not cause as big of a bump. That should keep feed prices relatively stable, which is good news for cattle feeders.

Change will also be evident in national politics. I have been following the presidential debates and encourage everyone to keep a close eye on the elections. We have the opportunity to elect a new president who will set a new course for our country. The next president will be involved in agricultural issues such as the upcoming Farm Bill, trade agreements,

migrant labor, tax and international policy. It is important that we understand where each of the candidates stand on those issues. If we in agriculture, which is a very small part of our population, are not active in the election process the change we experience in the future may have a profoundly negative effect on our pocketbooks and way of life.

There are changes afoot at the American Farm Bureau, as well. After 16 years as president, Bob Stallman, a Texas cattle and rice producer, will be stepping down. There are four individuals running for the presidency. Although the new president doesn't change Farm Bureau policy, the administration of the organization will see a new direction. The election will be held at the AFBF Annual Meeting in Orlando in January. I will keep you up to date on the elections and encourage you to follow our Facebook page where we will post interviews with the candidates.

Montana agriculture will see a lot of changes in the next 12 months, no doubt more than we have experienced in the past five years. As I see it, the majority of those changes will be positive for agriculture. Remember, the only constant is change, we have persevered through many changes over the centuries and as long as people continue to eat and need fiber, we will continue to meet those needs.

Even though this will come out after the holidays, my hope is that you had a very Merry Christmas, and will have a safe and prosperous New Year.



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A Time to be Thankful!

As I pushed back from the table after a generous Christmas meal and let my belt out a notch, I reflected on the bounty that had been spread before me. Like many others on Christmas and Thanksgiving, I had dined on turkey, stuffing, vegetables, potatoes and gravy, various condiments and topped it off with a small piece of apple pie as well as a small piece of pumpkin pie and a couple cups of coffee. A feast fit for a king! This was the kind of regal spread that was reserved only for the monarchs in days gone by and for the very wealthy in many countries in the world today. In America, however, the majority of our population is able to afford a meal of this magnitude. According to the American Farm Bureau, the cost of the annual Thanksgiving dinner for 10 in 2015 was only \$50.11. This is cheaper per person than a Big Mac Value Meal and a bargain by any comparison.

American farmers and ranchers are the most prolific in the world. Modern agriculture produces enough food for all 6.3 billion people on the planet. American farmers and ranchers each produce enough food for 155 people and are the leading producers of more than 50 foods essential to diets throughout the world. U.S. agriculture is blessed with abundant natural resources, adequate energy, significant investment in private and public agricultural research and the most advanced agricultural technology in the world. They produce the safest and most affordable food and fiber of any country in the world.

As many of us prepare for the Super Bowl

with elaborate plans for snacks, drinks and camaraderie we will turn up the heat, turn on the lights and get ready for the game. The electricity we take for granted helps heat our homes, powers the television, lights and various appliances. The power used by Americans to watch the Super Bowl will be ten times the amount used in a year by the more than 1 million people in Juba, South Sudan. Two out of every three, or around 621 million people in Africa, have no access to electricity.

Agriculture is one of the most energy-intensive industries in America. Our ability to produce is almost directly tied to the ability to fuel equipment, run crop dryers, heat barns and power numerous other implements. Compared to a great deal of the planet, we live in a veritable Eden of productivity.

As we contemplate the Christmas season that has just passed as well as the year ahead we need to take time to be thankful for all the things we enjoy as Americans. It doesn't take much of a look around the country or world to find that we live in one of the finest places and enjoy some of the best conditions to produce our crops and livestock. Other challenges pale as we realize that our future is so much brighter than our counterparts in any other part of the planet.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy New Year and remind you to thank a farmer or rancher for the food we eat, a miner or well driller for our power, and a soldier for the freedom to live in this great country.



John Youngberg

Executive Vice President, MFBF

“U.S. agriculture is blessed with abundant natural resources, adequate energy, significant investment in private and public agricultural research and the most advanced agricultural technology in the world.”



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From our Family to Yours

BY MARIAH SHAMMEL

About three months ago, Little Lady and I were standing at the meat counter in our local grocery store, waiting patiently to order some lunchmeat. For those of you with kids, you know that if you're standing in a spot surrounded by ground-level shelves of grab-able foods with a 20-month old, you're just waiting for something bad to happen. As we stood there, I noticed a nicely dressed older gentleman with his back turned to us, who had just placed his order. Immediately, I mumbled under my breath and shifted my gaze to my little cohort, hoping she could feel my eyes in the back of her head, warning her to behave.

Just when I thought she was being atypically quiet and still, she ambled up to the meat counter and starting pointing to all the chunks of meat. Her chubby finger pressed the glass in front of the ham roast and said, "Mmmm...pig meatball," and then took a few steps to her right, pointed to a chunk of roast beef and said, "Mmmm...cow meatball." After looking over more of the meat in the case, she turned around and said, "Mama, where's turkey meatball?" The man turned around. I braced myself for some comment about keeping my child's grubby hands off the glass but instead, he gave me a huge smile and said, "I can't believe she just said that. I've never heard a kid that age talk about meat and where it comes from."

After letting the blood flow back into my brain from holding my breath for so long, I informed him that we raise cows, so knowing where meat comes from and seeing the process first-hand starts at a young age in our house. He replied that it was great to see and to be sure to continue doing what we were doing. After he walked away, the lady working the counter commented on how rare it is to have people, much less kids, note the connection between animal and food.

I didn't think about it too much at the time (mainly because I was more worried about keeping a certain toddler contained in the grocery store) but on the way

home from picking Little Man up from preschool, I couldn't help but think of all the kids who grow up with no connection to our type of rural lifestyle. I hear the statistics, that kids nowadays are five generations removed from production agriculture, and I get the memos about "telling our story" but I've always assumed that kids around Lewistown, where cows are everywhere and ranching is the number one money-maker would be more in-tune with this vital part of life. Apparently not so much...

“Mmmm...pig meatball”

I used to have a blog where I would randomly post updates about what was going on at the ranch, why we do things the way we do them and what it's like to live at the mercy of the weather, the seasons and a bunch of munching bovines. Then Favorite Farmer and I started having kids and almost immediately the blog was put on the back burner. It always amazed me how many people read and commented on my posts—from my sister's friends in Nashville to my brother's co-workers in D.C. and even people I had no prior connection to. It gave them a first-hand look at a lifestyle few get to

experience, all from the comfort of their computer screen.

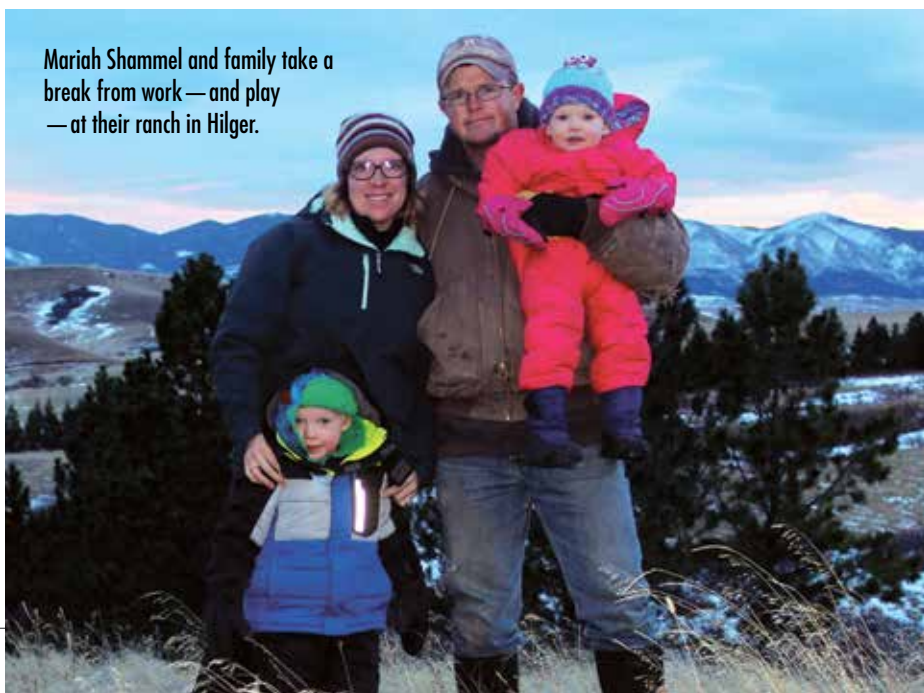
It didn't take me long to figure out that it was time to get the blog up and running again. If Favorite Farmer and I can take the time to bring our children with us in everything we do and teach them about our stake in the world, why can't we share that with everyone else? After all, what better place is there to learn about farming and ranching than from a family who lives it?

I invite you to visit my blog at www.kleenexchronicles.wordpress.com where you can become a part of our family, get familiarized with our day-to-day shenanigans and ask anything you want about our way of life. (No, we don't wear overalls everyday; Yes, we do use cattle trucks to transport livestock—imagine the trucks as your family Suburban. How else are you going to get cows from one place to another?)

I look forward to re-opening our barn doors to you and giving readers (no matter the age) a real-life glimpse into our fifth generation family ranch! But be prepared, our life is always smelly and messy, usually poopy, sometimes bloody and generally chaotic...and we wouldn't want it any other way. Happy Reading!



Mariah Shammell and family take a break from work—and play—at their ranch in Hilger.



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Safe Winter Driving

Winter storms often bring hazardous road conditions and increase the likelihood of vehicle accidents. You can never be too prepared for driving in winter conditions. Here are some tips to help you prevent accidents and stay safe this winter.

Maintain Your Vehicle – It is very important to service your vehicle to ensure that it will handle properly in icy conditions and to prevent a breakdown. Use this checklist to keep your vehicle ready for winter weather:

- Check your battery – Cold weather is hard on car batteries, so making sure you have enough power to start your car is a must. You can either take your car to an expert, or you can do it at home using a voltmeter.
- Check tire tread – As the roads get icy, having good tires will help prevent sliding or getting stuck in deep snow. You can use a coin to test your tire tread.

- Antifreeze – It's a good idea to regularly check antifreeze/coolant levels in your vehicle. Doing so will help prevent engine damage.
- Tune-ups – It's a good idea to have your vehicle inspected by an auto shop regularly to make sure that everything is functioning properly, especially when you are preparing for a road trip.
- Have a winter survival kit in the trunk.

Practice Makes Perfect – You may consider yourself a skilled driver but ice and snow drastically change even simple maneuvers. It's a great idea to practice turning, slowing down, and accelerating on ice and snow. Practicing will help you understand how your car handles in hazardous conditions, and will increase your comfort levels.

Plan Your Route – Especially if you are planning a long road trip, make sure you are prepared. Check the weather beforehand, and give yourself plenty of time (preferably daylight hours) to get there. Remember

that it often takes considerably longer to drive in winter conditions. Make sure to let someone know when you are leaving, the route you plan to take, and an estimated arrival time. That way if you get stuck or your car breaks down someone will know.

Stopped or Stalled? – Make sure that you know what to do if your car breaks down or you get stuck.

- Stay in the car.
- Call for help.
- Don't overexert – You will want to conserve your energy and let your body focus on keeping you warm.
- Clear exhaust pipe – With your car running, you will want to prevent any carbon dioxide from coming back into the vehicle.
- If you are low on gas, try not to continuously run your heat. Use your emergency blanket to stay warm.

By following these simple safety tips, you will be prepared for the long winter months ahead. Winter driving is always a challenge, but staying ahead of the curve will keep you and your family safe on the road.



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Bob Stallman
President, American Farm
Bureau Federation

“When you run into a problem on the farm, you don’t wish it away: You find a solution and fix it. You don’t ignore a broken fence or stop irrigating dry land. Wishful thinking doesn’t get things done and it’s not good business.”

An Honor Serving Agriculture

In January I’ll be passing the gavel to the new president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. It’s the final item on my agenda. As I look back on the last 16 years, I am proud of the hard work we’ve done to strengthen agriculture and make the voice of America’s farmers and ranchers heard.

Staying Ahead of Issues Facing Ag

Farmers and ranchers know how to get things done. We aren’t afraid of a challenge. Markets are up and down, weather turns unexpectedly. Yet farmers face these twists and turns with resilience. In that same spirit we began the work of honing our strategic focus here at AFBF when I started my first term. We switched to offense and brought the whole team to Washington, D.C., to get out in front of the issues facing agriculture. Today, Farm Bureau staff and members are on the front lines making sure our voices are heard and protecting the business of agriculture.

When you run into a problem on the farm, you don’t wish it away: You find a solution and fix it. You don’t ignore a broken fence or stop irrigating dry land. Wishful thinking doesn’t get things done and it’s not good business. “Strategic” and “action” are familiar terms here at AFBF. We established a Strategic Action Team in D.C. not just to monitor key issues but to anticipate policy battles and find solutions.

As a direct result of that effort, we are supporting our state Farm Bureaus like never before in their efforts to gain grassroots support for our national policy priorities. We are also using enhanced training and social media communications to empower farm and ranch families to advocate for their businesses and rural communities.

Standing Stronger Together

Together we’ve won a lot of victories by sharing our stories with lawmakers and the public. When the Department of Labor tried to stand in the way of families working together on their farms, we took action and showed that we can protect our kids while training them to run the family business. Likewise, when efforts were

afoot in Congress in 2010 to unilaterally tax the fuel that powers American agriculture, we linked arms in the call: “Don’t Cap Our Future.”

Sometimes, getting things done means bringing new solutions to the table. That’s just what we did with farm bills in 2002, 2008 and 2014. Most recently, we worked with Congress to update the way risk on the farm is managed. New market-focused crop insurance programs brought the program into the new century while safeguarding farmers’ peace of mind.

The success of U.S. agriculture is fueling industries in communities across the country. We’ve worked with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to open up trade around the world. And U.S. agricultural exports are booming, bringing in \$152 billion in 2014. With new trade agreements underway, we are poised for more growth still.

Keeping up the Fight

Our work is far from over. We continue to raise our voices in our call to Ditch The Rule, to inform lawmakers and the courts about the far-reaching impacts of EPA’s onerous Waters of the U.S. rule on productive farm and grazing land.

It’s not just lawmakers who need to understand the importance of what we do on our farms and ranches, but also consumers who are being fed misinformation about agriculture. Toward that goal, I am proud of the roles that AFBF played in the formation of the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance and our long track record of support for the Center for Food Integrity – two efforts that help amplify our voice in national discussions about food issues.

There have been a lot of changes since I was elected to serve as AFBF president back in 2000. I have no doubt that the new leader who takes up the gavel will have AFBF primed to capitalize on opportunities and address any challenges related to the prosperity of your farms and ranches, the quality of life you want for your families and the vitality of your rural communities. It’s truly been my honor to serve you and the agricultural industry we treasure.





MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION 2016 POLICY BOOK



PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

Farm Bureau is an independent, non governmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well being.

Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national and international in its scope and influence and is non partisan, non sectarian and non secret in character. Farm Bureau is the voice of agriculture producers at all levels.

FARM BUREAU BELIEFS

America's unparalleled progress is based on freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts.

Economic progress, cultural advancement, ethical and religious principles flourish best where people are free, responsible individuals.

Individual freedom and opportunity must not be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed "security."

We believe in government by legislative and constitutional law, impartially administered, without special privilege.

We believe in the representative form of government a republic as provided in our Constitution, in limitations on governmental power, in maintenance of equal opportunity, in the right of each individual to freedom of worship and freedom of speech, press and peaceful assembly.

Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles.

People have the right and responsibility to speak for themselves individually or through organizations of their choice without coercion or governmental intervention.

Property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom.

We believe in the right of every person to choose an occupation; to be rewarded according to his/her contribution to society; to save, invest or spend; and to convey his/her property to heirs. Each person has the responsibility to meet financial obligations incurred.

We believe that all citizens and non citizens alike should abide by the laws of the United States and those of the States in which they reside or visit.

We believe strong domestic manufacturing and production sectors are necessary to ensure U.S. economic and technological leadership as well as ensuring individual freedom and national security. (2005)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Each year, each county Farm Bureau holds an annual meeting at which the members of that county pass policy resolutions and elect delegates to the state's annual meeting. Policy resolutions passed by the county for the Montana Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation policy books are forwarded by the county to the state for review and consideration by the state Policy Development Committee, composed of a member from each District and chaired by the MFBF Vice President. Resolutions passed by the majority of delegates present at the state convention become the policies contained in this booklet and provides guidance and direction to the officers and staff of MFBF in the following year. Those resolutions that are national in nature and are passed by the delegates of the annual meeting are forwarded for consideration by the delegates duly elected by the state to represent the membership at the AFBF annual convention.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Responsible state and local government is imperative to the
2. preservation of self government and individual freedoms. We
3. support the constitution of the United States and will actively reject
4. those ideologies in conflict with these beliefs.

5. We favor the assumption of responsibility by the state and local
6. units of government for the exercise of their appropriate functions
7. and oppose forced consolidation of counties and other government
8. units.

9. We support the investigation and prosecution of fraud in all
10. agencies of government.

11. We recommend that government automatic pay raises be
12. eliminated.

13. We recommend a constitutional amendment that would reinstate
14. sovereign immunity to state, county, municipal governments and
15. school boards.

16. We oppose strikes by all public employees.

17. We believe that if a person is sued in a civil action and is
18. victorious, the person or agency bringing the suit should have to pay
19. both attorneys' fees and court costs.

20. We favor privatization of state agencies and/or programs as long
21. as it doesn't decrease essential services, and saves money for
22. agricultural producers. (2003)

23. We support legislation which would allow game wardens, brand

24. inspectors, and other public safety employees to work those hours
25. which they feel are necessary to do their job, rather than work a
26. prescribed 40 hour week.

27. We support legislation on reapportionment that will hold
28. representation of common interests as the priority for establishing
29. representative districts of any governmental ruling body.

30. Retirement benefits of our elected government officials and tax
31. paid employees should require full funding of their pension, ban
32. spiking, be defined contribution plans rather than defined benefit
33. plans. Retirement age should be the same as in the private sector.

34. We recommend each county and land management agency have a
35. standing emergency response list of people who are well acquainted
36. with topography, geography (roads & trails), climate, and human
37. resources to be called upon to assist with public emergencies, such
38. as fire, storm, flood, etc. (2000)

39. We recommend that no governing body in Montana shall be
40. permitted to sell industrial bonds without first receiving a favorable
41. vote of the people in the city or county affected.

42. Wherever a merger of government units is proposed, such as city
43. and county, a separate vote by the electorate of the city and by the
44. electorate of the unincorporated portion of the county should be
45. held. These elections should require a majority of each unit
46. involved.

47. We support the state and local governments' use of
48. coordination and cooperator status to participate effectively in
49. federal planning processes. We support including the process
50. of coordination and cooperator status in Montana law. (2011)

51. We oppose counties paying the state an easement fee across state
52. lands for existing county roads. (2003)

53. We recommend that "dedicated county roads" be defined as roads
54. constructed, repaired, and regularly maintained by a county
55. government, and for which the county receives a share of gasoline
56. tax monies, excluding all roads designated on official government
57. maps as "primitive roads", "unimproved roads", "unsurfaced or
58. soil surfaced roads" or "trails".

59. We support legislation returning authority to county
60. commissioners to administer county government with available tax
61. money.

62. We recommend the appraiser be appointed by the commissioners
63. of each county and are responsible to the commissioners and
64. taxpayers they are serving.

65. All county commissioners should have the option of determining
66. whether their counties should have full-time or part-time county
67. attorneys.

68. We believe that each county government request notification by
69. the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management so that they
70. be given the opportunity to participate in all Federal activities that
71. will or may directly or indirectly affect the citizens or the tax base
72. of their county.

73. We recommend that county assessors (a) be elected by county
74. voters; (b) be responsible to the voters of the county and their
75. commissioners; (c) have their authority returned to the county level;
76. (d) have their salary paid by local government and not by the
77. Montana Department of Revenue.

78. We believe that county officials' wages should be determined by
79. the respective counties.

80. We recommend that the offices of city county planner and civil
81. defense director be multi county employed by the respective
82. counties where applicable.

83. We oppose any federal or state law or regulation which would
84. control the sale of food items (exclusive of school lunch programs)
85. in all Montana schools. Such control of food sales should rest with
86. the local school boards.

87. We oppose the consolidation of county government offices to the
88. state level. (1997)

89. We recommend a legislative session every two years and are
90. opposed to a unicameral legislature. (2005)

91. We recommend state agencies be required to zero base budget
92. one division of each agency, each biennium, to promote
93. transparency. (2009)

94. We support requiring legislative approval of state regulatory
95. agencies' budgets, spending and regulations. (2011)

96. We recommend the same state law enforcement jurisdiction over
97. non Indians and Indians alike within the boundaries of Indian
98. Reservations in Montana.

99. Indian tribes should not be allowed to collect a severance tax
100. accruing to their tribes' private interest after they have sold their
101. coal to developers.

102. We are opposed to any legislator making laws that they are not

103. required to abide by. (2004)

104. We support that appointees to state advisory committees

105. consist of individuals from all groups directly affected by the

106. committee recommendations. We support these meetings be

107. recorded for public record. (2015)

108. We oppose government departments and agencies becoming

109. members of the International Union for the Conservation of

110. Nature (IUCN) or forming a public/private partnership with

111. organizations that are members of the IUCN. (2015)

112. We support limiting units of government to the scope of their

113. constitutionally delegated powers, and prohibiting all state agencies

114. from creating their own laws by virtue of rulemaking. (2010)

115. We support a bonding and lien law giving the producer first lien

116. on products sold and/or accounts receivable in the case of

117. bankruptcy or failure to pay by buyers of agricultural products.

118. We recommend that in-state financial institutions be given

119. priority in investment of state funds when investment opportunities

120. are equal.

121. We support legislation which would limit the number of bills

122. introduced per member per legislative session. (2005)

123. We support Legislative fiscal notes estimating a bill's

124. individual and cumulative direct impacts and compliance costs

125. for taxpayers and business owners. (2009)

126. We recommend that the State of Montana vigorously oppose

127. unfunded federal mandates and federal intrusions into state rights.

128. We favor standard time in Montana. (2012)

129. We oppose the State Legislature mandating spending by county

130. and city governments without providing funding.

131. We oppose the Unisex Insurance law and recommend its repeal.

132. We support lower insurance premium rates for married couples.

133. (1998)

134. We support the termination of all government programs and

135. agencies every 6 years unless re authorized by the U.S. Congress

136. or the Montana Legislature.

137. We oppose poll booth registration and recommend removal of

138. names from the voter registration list of those not voting in the

139. general election every four years. (1999)

140. We recommend the Montana election ballots be printed only in

141. English.

142. We support efforts for full accountability and disclosure of all

143. organizations and incidental committees participating in the

144. sponsorship or funding of any and all political or election issues.

145. (2013)

146. We oppose limiting the terms of lobbyists participating in the

147. Montana Legislature.

148. We oppose term limits. (1997)

149. We are opposed to individuals receiving federal fuel assistance

150. when they are members of a corporation or a colony that is

151. responsible for the bills.

152. We oppose any action which would make dynamite unavailable

153. for agricultural uses.

154. We recommend fire coverage be added to the State Hail

155. Insurance policies. (2001)

156. We are opposed to the closure of county FSA offices when there

157. is an NRCS office in that county. (2005)

158. We support revisions to the Montana Administrative Procedures

159. Act (MAPA), the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

160. or other administrative statutes, which require that administrative

161. rules and procedures being developed by agencies consider the

162. impacts to agriculture. (2011)

163. We support requiring any alternative chosen under a

164. "programmatic" state Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

165. that requires further action be followed by a full EIS in

166. accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act

167. (MEPA). Public comments must be taken on the specific action

168. and location chosen. (2015)

169. We support eliminating racial identification on all government

170. forms. (2011)

171. We support requiring person(s) or organizations filing appeals

172. to stop natural resource use and agricultural activities on

173. public lands to provide to news media their name, home

174. address and occupation. (2012)

175. We support the creation and maintenance of a Montana Animal

176. and Agriculture Disaster Preparedness Plan. (2014)

COURTS AND JUDICIARY

1. We support the judicial function being performed by the judicial

2. branch and not by executive agencies. (2005)

3. We support judges interpreting laws as legislative bodies intended

4. and oppose courts legislating from the bench. (2005)

5. We support requiring the courts to defer and remand questions of

6. reform and social change to the legislative branch. (2005)

7. We support tort reform in all forms, including any health care

8. legislation. (2011)

9. We support limiting the Montana Supreme Court's use of "non-

10. citable" decisions to matters of routine family law. (2010)

11. We support reinstating the right to a jury trial in federal magistrate

12. courts. (2006)

13. We believe financing of agricultural lands should continue to be

14. protected by mortgages which require District Court proceedings

15. for foreclosure. (2007)

16. We support individuals, corporate officers, LLC members or

17. partners being able to represent the sole proprietorships,

18. corporations, LLCs, or partnerships in administrative hearings and

19. processes, including the MT Water Court and MT DNRC contested

20. cases. (2007)

21. We support legislation that will limit the time allowance for

22. objections to be raised against proposed business projects to one

23. year after all permitting has been completed and approved. (2009)

24. We support limiting lawyer fees, under the Equal Access to

25. Justice Act, in cases involving special interest groups suing States

26. or the Federal Government, excluding cases involving civil

27. liberties. (2011)

CONSTITUTION

1. We believe in the American capitalistic, private, competitive

2. enterprise system in which property is privately owned, privately

3. managed and operated for profit and individual satisfaction.

4. Centralization of powers in the various branches of government

5. will threaten our freedom. We, the people, should accept a greater

6. responsibility in government.

7. The former constitutional limit of bonded indebtedness of states,

8. counties, cities and schools should be part of our Constitution.

9. Industry and recreation are making greater demands on our water

10. resources. We advocate constitutional protection for water rights

11. and adjudicated water rights.

12. We support a Montana Constitutional Amendment on Article VII,

13. Section II which would change the composition, chairmanship and

14. access to the Judicial Standards Commission.

15. We support an Initiative Proposal to amend Article VIII of the

16. Montana Constitution to remove the responsibility for certain

17. property tax assessments from the state and restore it to the counties

18. under the policy direction of a State County Equalization

19. Commission.

20. We favor a constitutional amendment that will: (1) Remove the

21. federal government from doing any direct business in competition

22. with private enterprise unless specified by the Constitution, (2) That

23. the Constitution or law of any state or the United States shall not be

24. subject to the terms of any foreign or domestic agreement which

25. would abrogate this amendment, (3) The activities of the U.S.

26. Government which violate the intent and purposes of this

27. amendment shall, within a period of three years from the date of

28. ratification of this amendment, be liquidated and properties and

29. facilities involved shall be sold, (4) Three years after ratification of

30. this amendment, the 16th Article of Amendments to the

31. Constitution shall stand repealed and thereafter Congress shall not

32. levy taxes on personal income, estates and/or gifts.

33. We support efforts to demand a balanced federal budget, without

34. increased taxation, by a Constitutional amendment by the Congress

35. of the United States.

36. We oppose a Constitutional Convention.

37. We support legislation which will allow organizations to require a

38. continuing membership as a condition of participation in

39. organizationally sponsored casualty insurance programs.

40. We support maintaining the current federal electoral-college

41. election process. (2012)

TAXATION

1. We support legislation to reduce taxes and government

2. expenditures and to require a balanced budget.

3. We recommend that the State Department of Revenue be

4. prohibited from taxing anything not specifically authorized by the

5. State Legislature or the county governing body.

6. We oppose tax assessments that result in a surplus in the state

7. general fund. (2000)

8. We oppose government agencies using funds to promote

9. policy and programs with any bias against agriculture. (2010)

10. All proposed bonds issued to build public buildings must include

11. estimated costs of normal operations of said buildings for the

12. duration of the bond issue.

13. Due to inflationary trends and the increasing pressures brought to

14. bear on monetary resources, any revenue law should be considered

15. in its entirety before it is amended; voting on bond or levy issues

16. shall require at least 51% participation.

17. We favor legislation that would protect the tax base in counties

18. where conservation easements are granted, donated or sold.

19. We are opposed to the restructuring of any tax system that would

20. result in increased total tax burden.

21. We oppose the use of tax money to pay membership dues of

22. organizations or associations that hire professional lobbyists.

23. We are opposed to the increasing of, or the addition of new user

24. fees, permits, licenses or other revenue enhancements as a form of

25. deficit reduction.

26. We are opposed to new, burdensome and excessive accounting

27. requirements associated with taxes, including filing 1099 Misc.

28. income forms. (2010)

29. We support legislation mandating all net revenues received from

30. the lottery support primary and secondary education.

31. We oppose the adoption of a recreation land tax or surcharge on

32. lands where a recreation fee is charged or where outfitting occurs.

33. We recommend all fuel and gasoline used for off-road agriculture

34. have the fuel tax refunded to the user. (1998)

35. Retail sale of dyed diesel fuel at self-service pumps should be
36. restricted to discourage unlawful dispensing into vehicles used on
37. public roads. (2000)
38. We support a reduction of Montana capital gains tax. (2002)
39. We support incentives including, but not limited to, tax incentives
40. aimed at recruitment and retention of volunteer fire fighters and
41. EMTs in Montana. (2006)
42. We oppose the State of Montana imposing any type of carbon tax
43. on fuels, fertilizers and other types of agricultural use inputs. (2007)
44. We support keeping the Montana Tax Code parallel to the Federal
45. Tax program regarding the policy for a 1031 property exchange.
46. (2007)
47. We support real property owner's right to sell or transfer any real
48. property without additional assessments, sales taxes, or real estate
49. transfer taxes. (2010)

INCOME TAX

1. We recommend that we continue to have the State Investment
2. Credit and Depreciation schedules.
3. We urge the State of Montana to implement legislation necessary
4. to adjust the tax exemption with the cost of living, and the
5. exemption should increase proportionately with the cost of living
6. index.
7. We support 100% deduction of health insurance premiums and
8. unreimbursed health care costs.
9. We support indexing capital gains to the consumer price index so
10. that no tax revenue is derived from inflation.
11. We recommend that income tax modifications be revenue neutral
12. or a reduction of total revenue.
13. We support the right to defer payment for agricultural products
14. and to be taxed on that money the year the money is received.

PROPERTY TAX

1. Property tax relief should be a part of any tax reform.
2. We believe the appraisal, assessment and taxing authority should
3. be the responsibility of county government and any tax derived
4. should be used in the county of origin.
5. We support a Montana Property Tax system that allows Montana
6. residents to remain in their homes and to own property without
7. having the costs of ownership become prohibitive due to
8. significantly increasing property taxes.
9. We oppose any amendments to the present Greenbelt law which
10. are detrimental to agriculture.
11. We recommend that all federal and state properties should
12. contribute in lieu of taxes as these properties require tax supported
13. services.
14. We recommend that any person who receives benefit directly or
15. indirectly from federal taxes should be required to pay their fair
16. share of state and local taxes. (2000)
17. We support the elimination of business equipment taxes
18. including farm grain storage facilities, machinery, and all farm
19. production items. We support keeping Montana business
20. equipment inventory consistent with existing (2011) IRS
21. depreciation procedures. We oppose the inventory of business
22. equipment with a component cost or value of under \$1,000. (2011)
23. Until agricultural personal property taxes are eliminated, we urge
24. agricultural inventories be taxed on an equitable basis with other
25. business inventories. (2009)
26. Owners of private property should not be required to report
27. inventory of their tax exempt personal property to the Montana
28. Department of Revenue. (2011)
29. We oppose any effort to tax domestic and agricultural water
30. use, water wells and septic systems.
31. We are opposed to direct taxation of appropriated water rights.
32. For tax purposes the appraisal of improvements should be made
33. on the original cost of such improvements rather than on
34. replacement cost.
35. We favor replacement of the property tax as the principal source
36. of funding for primary and secondary education with a broader
37. based alternate tax.
38. We recommend that mill levy and bond issue elections be limited
39. to no more than two per issue per year.
40. We oppose a standing timber tax or any timber tax proposed on or
41. before a timber harvest. We oppose any timber tax being applied to
42. a landowner for using timber for his own personal use. We oppose
43. any recommendation for the extraction of standing timber from the
44. agricultural classification based on its production value.
45. We support legislation to allow taxpayers who pay only personal
46. property taxes to pay the tax in two separate, equal payments.
47. We recommend agricultural land continue to be assessed on the
48. basis of its productivity and net income. (2005)
49. We oppose exempting nonproductive parcels within agricultural
50. land from taxation so that the nonproductive parcel retains its
51. agricultural classification. (2010)
52. We oppose the reclassification of land under streams and lakes
53. and its exemption from taxation without deeds conveying title to the
54. state. (2008)
55. We recommend that privately owned land occupied by a county
56. road should not be excluded from taxation if the change in the
57. taxable status diminishes the private ownership rights. (2010)
58. We prefer property tax credits over rebates. (2006)

59. We oppose the designation "highest taxable value" when
60. appraising land for either property or estate taxes. (2006)
61. We recommend game farm animals be taxed as domestic
62. livestock.
63. Land which is subdivided, platted, recorded and removed from the
64. agricultural use classification should be taxed at the non-agricultural
65. subdivided rate.
66. We oppose a state tax on holders of property leases or rentals if
67. declared a privileged or special use by the Department of Revenue.
68. We recommend that livestock assessment on an average yearly
69. inventory basis be optional.
70. We support the present right of property owners to buy or sell
71. mineral rights and surface rights of land separately. In case of
72. untraceable ownership or abandonment, the mineral and oil rights
73. should revert back to the surface owner rather than to the state or
74. federal government.
75. We recommend conservation easements be annually taxed based
76. on the purchase value of the right. (2004)
77. We support any property tax revenue collected by the State in
78. excess of what is owed be refunded with accrued interest. (2010)

NATURAL RESOURCES TAX

1. We recommend that industry causing a social impact include in
2. their plans of development, provisions for the supplying of services
3. required for their people.
4. Net proceeds tax should be returned to the county of origin.
5. We support legislation to use a portion of the coal tax severance
6. monies on a state wide equitable basis for the construction and
7. maintenance of Montana's primary and secondary highways and
8. bridges with preference to impacted areas. (2000)
9. We support distribution of Natural Resource Tax back to the
10. counties on each county basis instead of on the per capita basis.
11. We oppose the reclassification of agricultural land as industrial
12. for extraction of minerals.
13. We support attempts to lower taxes on oil produced by a tertiary
14. recovery method (carbon dioxide).
15. We support tax incentives in the state's tax structure to explore
16. and develop all energy sources. (2011)
17. We support equalization of property tax on wind parks and
18. biodiesel generation systems to levels now in effect for coal and gas
19. generation systems. (2004)
20. We support a reclassification of commercial wind turbines and
21. commercial biofuel generators from class 13 (assessed at 6%) to
22. class 8 (assessed at 3%). (2004)

SALES TAX

1. We support a sales tax or discretionary tax if it is at least revenue
2. neutral with respect to agriculture. (1998)

EDUCATION

1. Teaching the basics of our free enterprise system, the importance
2. of God, and the role of citizens with their freedoms and
3. responsibilities must receive greater importance in the classroom if
4. this nation is to retain its strong constitutional form of government.
5. (2004)
6. We recommend that all elementary and high school students be
7. required to pass the desired level of competency before receiving a
8. diploma of graduation, the tests to be written and administered by
9. the State Department of Education. We are opposed to a certificate
10. of competency for hours of attendance in lieu of a high school
11. diploma, except in the case of a student who has been tested and
12. certified for special education.
13. We believe that guidelines should be made available for a
14. minimum standard to be taught in basic courses which are covered
15. by standardized testing requirements at all grade levels, as
16. established by the State Board of Public Education and the Office of
17. Public Instruction. We support the present accreditation standards
18. set at the state level which allows local control by school boards.
19. We recommend emphasis on a disciplined teaching and learning
20. environment that encourages academic excellence.
21. Self supported private schools have an important place in a free
22. society. We insist that all levels of government recognize the right
23. of private groups to organize and operate educational institutions
24. and the importance of maintaining conditions which permit such
25. institutions to operate. The Internal Revenue Service should be
26. prohibited, by legislation if necessary, from interfering with the
27. enrollment practices of private schools.
28. We support the establishment of a voucher system for Montana's
29. K 12 educational system to achieve school funding equalization.
30. This voucher could be used at any accredited school in the State of
31. Montana.
32. We support the concept of "Merit Pay" for public school teachers.
33. We oppose any effort to add pre school to the public school
34. system.
35. We recommend that American History and government courses
36. Be maintained in the required curriculum of Montana secondary
37. schools.
38. We oppose the introduction of the "Political Correctness" History
39. Standards. (2004)
40. We support the teaching of both evolutionary and creation theory
41. in public schools. These two disciplines must be presented in an

42. equal and impartial manner.

43. We are opposed to the requirement that a specific minority

44. cultural heritage be taught in public schools. (2009)

45. We support local school boards' authority to set dress codes.

46. (2000)

47. We believe free education should not be granted to illegal aliens.

48. (2006)

49. Environmental education in public schools in Montana shall be

50. based on proven science. (1997)

51. We recommend that English be declared the national language

52. and oppose mandatory bilingual education in the public school

53. system.

54. We encourage the review of the implications of "No Child Left

55. Behind" on the children and public schools in Montana. (2005)

56. Actual travel distance, road conditions, and terrain which must be

57. traversed by the students should be the basic consideration for

58. isolation status, and not the distance between school buildings.

59. We feel that the students should be allowed to go to the school

60. closest to their homes regardless of district boundaries.

61. We oppose tuition and transportation charges between school

62. districts as long as those schools receive funding from the state.

63. The education structure that allows our rural people to have local

64. elementary rural schools, locally administered, should be

65. maintained.

66. We oppose mandatory consolidation of school districts. (2010)

67. We support replacing the payments made to the Montana

68. University System based on the numbers of Full Time Equivalent

69. (FTE) students with a "voucher" system. Montana residents

70. maintaining at least a 2.00 Grade Point Average could use these

71. vouchers at any accredited college, vo tech or university in the State

72. of Montana.

73. The University system and vocational centers must become more

74. efficient to minimize duplication of curriculum and overlapping

75. facilities. Audits of individual units of the University system

76. should be made available to the public.

77. We support legislation to secure adequate state funding for the

78. maintenance of quality in Montana's vocational agricultural

79. programs in our public schools.

80. We believe that mandating school funding equity will not enhance

81. educational quality or opportunity.

82. We support legislation to secure adequate funding for the

83. maintenance of quality schools in Montana. We feel there should

84. be a holistic approach to the revenue for the state funding for

85. education, rather than relying solely on property taxes. (2005)

86. We recommend that administrators, local school boards and the

87. Board of Regents concentrate on providing quality education at the

88. lowest possible cost, rather than attempting to maximize per student

89. costs.

90. We support the updating and expansion of agriculturally oriented

91. materials which educate students in all phases of agriculture from

92. the farm to the consumer in the classrooms of Montana and support

93. the efforts of the "Agriculture in Montana Schools" organization.

94. (2007)

95. We support the Agriculture in Montana Schools voluntary check-

96. off program.

97. We recommend that the legislature fund the Agricultural Research

98. and Extension Service to ensure improved future performance to

99. allow us to keep up in our race for economic survival.

100. We support providing improved ag education facilities for ag

101. education and extension students at Montana State University in

102. Bozeman. (2006)

103. We support implementation of a 2 year Associates of Applied

104. Science program to provide veterinary technicians through the

105. Montana university system. (2011)

106. We support veterinary education for Montana students in the new

107. one and three year program with veterinary students completing the

108. first year at MSU-Bozeman, and the next 3 years at the Washington

109. State University veterinary school.

110. The selection process in Montana needs to be in the hands of a

111. Montana committee with preference for students pursuing rural-

112. mixed production animal practice. (2012)

113. We support increasing the number of schools offering

114. agricultural education and the National FFA Organization. (2007)

115. We support legislation that would: (1) consolidate curriculum,

116. (2) streamline administration (State Office of Education and

117. University system), and (3) place emphasis on core courses that

118. parallel the state basic industries.

119. We believe that school financing should be simplified.

120. We support the 6 mill levy for the support of our state colleges

121. and universities.

122. We recommend that all credits transfer readily between all

123. schools in the University system at full value in the accredited

124. courses.

125. We support requiring all units of the Montana University system

126. to honor the requirements for graduation listed in the institution's

127. then current catalog at the time the student declared a major.

128. We support a balanced education of environmental issues being

129. taught in the schools and the University systems.

130. We recommend that students seeking college loans and grants

131. not be penalized for their individual earnings and achievements.

INHERITANCE

1. It should be the inherent right of any person to pass the fruits of
2. his labor to the person or persons of his choice.
3. We favor enactment of legislation to simplify inheritance
4. proceedings.
5. To preserve family farms and businesses and maintain family
6. ownership, we believe it necessary that inheritance taxes be
7. eliminated.

WELFARE

1. As responsible citizens we want to provide help for those who
2. cannot help themselves. We need stringent guidelines for the
3. distribution of food stamps, and the agent should be in some way
4. answerable to the county. We object to helping those who do not
5. wish to help themselves.
6. Any able bodied person in receipt of welfare and failing to
7. contribute his services to work programs shall have the entitlement
8. to welfare terminated. Persons on strike should be ineligible for
9. food stamps, unemployment compensation and welfare. (2003)
10. We support requiring drug testing for anyone receiving welfare,
11. unemployment or food stamps. (2011)
12. We encourage programs to train persons to work at productive
13. jobs to improve job opportunities, but oppose the retraining of any
14. person who has had prior job skill training through a government
15. agency unless such retraining is necessary as a result of debilitating
16. injury or sickness.

LABOR

1. We recommend that labor unions be prohibited from restraining
2. trade.
3. We recommend that the Montana Legislature enact a Right to
4. Work Law.
5. We recommend support of the following principles: (1) farm
6. workers be guaranteed the right of secret ballot elections, (2)
7. prohibit the boycott as a device to force farm workers into an
8. organization not of their own choice, (3) provide means of
9. arbitration to settle farm labor disputes without loss of the crops to
10. farmers, jobs to workers and the inevitable high cost that
11. interruptions of production bring to consumers.
12. We recommend unemployment laws be strengthened to require
13. the unemployed accept whatever jobs are available. (2003)
14. Unemployment benefits should not be available to able bodied
15. workers who choose to remain unemployed. (2003)
16. We recommend that private contractors be allowed to maintain
17. their right to trade as self employed individuals for all purposes
18. including taxation, liability and insurance.
19. We support legislation that would enable the Montana Prevailing
20. Wage Law for public construction to be administered to reflect
21. actual conditions in each local community.
22. County and local governments should be exempt from state
23. prevailing wage law when only locally generated funds are used.
24. We oppose cost of living indexing in conjunction with the
25. minimum wage. (2006)
26. We strongly recommend the governments of the State of
27. Montana and the United States enforce immigration laws. (2010)

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

1. We recommend that the State Worker's Compensation Insurance
2. keep its fund actuarially and basically sound through its premium
3. scale and that the agriculture benefits be brought in line with other
4. State Worker's Compensation Laws. (2001)
5. We recommend that all family members under the age of 21 of all
6. agriculture operations, officers or owners of Sub Chapter S
7. Corporation or any family corporation receiving most of its income
8. from raising agriculture products, continue to be allowed to reject
9. Worker's Compensation and be treated as partners in a business
10. partnership.
11. We favor legislation providing for a reduction in the amount paid
12. in a worker's compensation disability settlement if a lump sum
13. payment is required.
14. We support legislation making it mandatory that employers and
15. claimants receive an itemized listing in Worker's Compensation
16. claims including medical costs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Development of generating plants, gasification and liquefaction
2. plants should be directed toward use of water and sites adjacent to
3. existing dams and reservoirs.
4. We support the continued utilization of some monies from the
5. Natural Resources Legacy program for soil, range and water
6. programs that benefit agriculture. (2003)
7. We support legislation to reduce severance taxes on Montana's
8. natural resources.
9. We support government agencies having to comply with all the
10. requirements that a private citizen must in the water reservation
11. process.
12. We support requiring the monies collected for the Oil and Gas
13. Damage Mitigation Account from the sale of oil, gas, and hard
14. rock minerals and metals be used for reclamation projects
15. as originally intended. (2014)
16. We recommend that the Oil and Gas Commission enforce the

17. Administrative Rules of Montana, including, but not limited to
 18. flaring of gas at oil well sites. (2003)
 19. We recommend the Oil and Gas Commission have accurate
 20. information on the bit direction on horizontal oil wells to protect the
 21. rights of mineral owners.
 22. We support legislation that will promote the orderly development
 23. of all natural resources, including all metals and minerals, on all
 24. public lands while protecting the quality of surface water and
 25. ground water. We ask the protection of the water quality as is
 26. found in all water aquifers in the areas of development. (2003)
 27. We support the building of infrastructure to move oil and
 28. natural resources while protecting private property rights. (2011)
 29. We support the production of coalbed natural gas with the
 30. disposal of water to be determined by the surface owner abiding by
 31. the laws of the State of Montana. If water produced can be
 32. completely contained on surface land, the landowner determines its
 33. disposal. (2006)
 34. We recommend that hard rock miners have proof of ownership or
 35. lease of mineral rights and authorization to enter upon the surface,
 36. to obtain a permit from the State, BLM (Bureau of Land
 37. Management), or Forest Service to mine that property. (2003)
 38. We support mineral extraction and reclamation by safe
 39. industry accepted means. (1998)
 40. We recommend underground pore space belong to the surface
 41. owners after minerals have been extracted. (2008)
 42. We support wind energy development rights remaining with
 43. the surface owner. (2009)
 44. We support legislation clarifying landowners' rights to fight fires
 45. on adjoining public lands. (2000)
 46. We recommend government agencies use all available means,
 47. local resources and landowners to stop wild fires. (2003)
 48. We support legislation to facilitate the rehabilitation of the St.
 49. Mary facilities and the Milk River Project. (2004)
 50. We oppose any additional allocation of water for Bowdoin
 51. National Wildlife Refuge and oppose the downstream flushing
 52. of salts from Bowdoin Lake. (2002)
 53. **We support maximizing water production in state or national**
 54. **forests with management and protection plans, policies, and**
 55. **programs. (2015)**

WATER RIGHTS

1. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation should be
 2. responsible for guaranteeing that all water permits issued by them
 3. do not cause expense or problems to those who had water rights
 4. prior to 1973.
 5. We are dedicated to the protection of existing water rights and
 6. future water availability for agriculture and domestic use.
 7. We support the current system of parties to a water decree
 8. petitioning the local district court for a water commissioner to
 9. administer that decree, and to protect the water rights in the decree.
 10. (2008)
 11. We support the Montana Water Court providing Water Masters
 12. for technical assistance to local district courts administering water
 13. decrees. (2008)
 14. We support the prior appropriation doctrine, including the
 15. requirements of notice of appropriation, diversion from the source
 16. and beneficial use of water. (2005)
 17. We understand "conjunctive" water rights to be the legal
 18. recognition of a connection between ground and surface water
 19. and/or the application of a single priority system to both ground and
 20. surface water in a basin or aquifer. We believe conjunctive water
 21. rights should not be used to diminish the legal theories of prior
 22. appropriation doctrine, diversion and beneficial use. (2005)
 23. We recommend that any development in or recreational use of
 24. Montana river or stream drainages not interfere with the existing
 25. rights or future needs of agriculture and that the State of Montana as
 26. well as the Montana Farm Bureau shall vigorously defend the
 27. agricultural water rights within the state and especially those water
 28. rights challenged in court by other interests including recreational
 29. interests. We further recommend that industrial companies of any
 30. type shall store adequate water to serve their needs during periods
 31. of inadequate stream flow.
 32. We recommend exempt status be given for stock water when
 33. stock water is diverted to protect riparian zones in compliance with
 34. riparian fencing requirements. (2006)
 35. We support limiting exempt water rights, in closed basins, to
 36. isolated single family domestic and stock water wells until the
 37. Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) has completed
 38. hydrogeology models for the purposes of protecting senior water
 39. rights and affirming the prior appropriation doctrine. (2008)
 40. We oppose any government agency's ability to object to, or
 41. attempt to appropriate, properly filed private individual water rights
 42. for government use. (1997)
 43. We support legislative relief for all owners of Federal Land
 44. Allotments through a statute that awards and confirms that
 45. previously exempt water rights, not filed on during the 1973-1982
 46. period on federal lands, are owned by the federal allotment
 47. holders and that the statute also impose and enforce estoppels on
 48. the Federal Government. (2010)
 49. We are opposed to federal water rights in designated wilderness
 50. areas.

51. We oppose the reservation of water as applied for by Fish,
 52. Wildlife & Parks on all un-adjudicated water.
 53. We recommend legislation to clarify "navigable streams and
 54. rivers" and confirm the commercial standard for navigability.
 55. We believe residence on federal lands within the state shall not be
 56. grounds for exemption from the Montana water adjudication
 57. process.
 58. We oppose reach of flow as a means of measuring any water
 59. right.
 60. We support the efficient use of water.
 61. We recognize the importance of riparian zones and therefore we
 62. urge governmental agencies and environmental organizations to use
 63. reason and caution in any proposed management.
 64. Landowners should be alerted to any attempt to manage these
 65. zones by government.
 66. We object to the DNRC requiring the reduction of irrigated acres
 67. because a producer has installed an irrigation system that increases
 68. his irrigation efficiency and/or production. (2008)
 69. We support defining "salvage water" as water that is saved by
 70. more efficient use, the use of which would not adversely affect
 71. existing appropriators and source of supply. Salvaged water would
 72. belong to the person holding the water right. The priority date
 73. would be the same date as the original water right. The irrigator
 74. would have the options of expanding his irrigated acres or otherwise
 75. benefiting from salvaged water provided that all existing water
 76. rights are protected.
 77. We recommend beneficial use water claims be so stated, field
 78. investigated by the Department of Natural Resources and
 79. Conservation and verified by the courts before being validated. The
 80. methodology used in field investigations must be consistent basin to
 81. basin, as well as within each basin.
 82. We recommend an examination of county records by the Water
 83. Court and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
 84. to help determine the validity of the claims.
 85. We support requiring short term, then medium term water leases
 86. be successfully completed and the adjudication process for the
 87. entire basin be completed before long term leases and/or sales of
 88. water rights are allowed. (2006)
 89. We recommend when a water right is leased for instream flow, the
 90. point of measurement remain as near as possible to the recorded
 91. point of diversion.
 92. We recommend prior to the leasing or sale of water the following
 93. conditions be met: (a) all water rights are protected, (b) the water
 94. actually leased or sold is not available for re use by other
 95. appropriators, (c) the transaction takes place between willing
 96. parties, (d) the autonomy of stream reaches is guaranteed, (e) the
 97. use of water for instream flow does not jeopardize any valid
 98. existing water right, (f) the only way to get a water right for
 99. instream use is to purchase or lease water from a pre 1973 water
 100. right or to utilize "salvage water" and/or new storage.
 101. Any public use must be acquired by purchase or appropriation in
 102. the proper court of law.
 103. Domestic users should be encouraged to conserve to the same
 104. degree as other users. (2008)
 105. We support extensive research and study on the effects of
 106. methane gas extraction on water tables in areas surrounding the
 107. sites to insure all existing water supplies are maintained and
 108. sustained.
 109. We also recommend extensive study of all possible adverse
 110. affects caused by sodium or other elements present in disposal
 111. water from methane wells. (1999)
 112. We support the temporary closure of Beaverhead and Madison
 113. Counties to new appropriations of surface and ground water until
 114. the re adjudication process is complete. Exempt from the closure:
 115. a) domestic and stock wells consuming 30 gallons per minute or
 116. less, b) changes that would not adversely affect existing water
 117. rights, c) reservations granted under the recent Upper Missouri
 118. water reservation process for irrigation and municipal uses, d) new
 119. structural and non structural storage. (2006)
 120. We support the legislature designating the Department of
 121. Natural Resources and Conservation to record exempt 35 gallon
 122. per minute wells, regulate, and mediate problems that arise among
 123. landowners. (2008)
 124. We support the following process to determine adverse affect of
 125. ground water appropriations in closed basins: a) Applications
 126. determined by DNRC to have an adverse affect are subject to
 127. augmentation of consumed water. b) Applicants requiring
 128. augmentation being granted a hearing with DNRC prior to
 129. rejection of permit application. (2006)
 130. We support augmentation as a beneficial use of water. (2006)
 131. We support legislation assuring landowners or purchasers access
 132. to irrigation water to which they are entitled. Further, sub-
 133. dividers/developers will be legally responsible to provide
 134. appropriate legal access to irrigation water associated with water
 135. rights on that property and on adjacent or neighboring properties
 136. whose irrigation water flows through the development. (1998)
 137. We recommend the Department of Natural Resources and
 138. Conservation require the Farm Service Agency maps to
 139. accompany any new application for irrigation water rights.
 140. These maps should indicate all ground water developments within
 141. one mile of the proposed diversion. Any landowner within one

142. mile shall be notified by mail of such application. (1999)
143. We support requiring permits from the DNRC in closed basins of
144. all new surface and ground water for development of major
145. subdivisions, municipal, industrial, landscaping, and recreational
146. use. (2006)
147. We support municipalities and state agencies being subject to
148. Montana water law and oppose federal pre-emption of Montana
149. water law through state and local government. (2008)
150. We oppose DNRC employees being appointed as presiding
151. officers in contested water rights case hearings. (2007)
152. We support definitions for both the terms “ditch” and “diverted
153. water” be developed and passed into Montana State Law. (2011)
154. We oppose relocation or alteration of an irrigation ditch or canal
155. without ditch or canal easement owner permission. (2013)

WATER STORAGE

1. We favor using a portion of the coal severance tax to develop a
2. comprehensive water storage plan with strong input from Montana’s
3. agricultural interests. The multiple use concept should be used in
4. choosing storage sites with consideration given to future
5. agricultural, municipal, industrial and recreational uses of water.
6. We recommend acceptance of flood control as a major concern in
7. the management of federal dams during winter and early spring.
8. We support improved or additional water storage to increase
9. availability of water for agriculture and recreational use as well as
10. to increase instream flow.
11. We support all efforts to obtain power at Western Area Power
12. Administration’s (WAPA) firm power rate from the federal
13. government through the Pick Sloan program for use on existing and
14. proposed private, state and federal irrigation projects in Montana.
15. We recommend defining the following as non consumptive uses
16. of water: a) structural storage, b) non structural storage resulting
17. from flood irrigation (return flows), c) stream flow hydro power
18. developments.

WATER ADJUDICATION

1. We support Legislation that will validate the original priority
2. dates for all existing water rights, including late claims or forfeited
3. rights, provided the water claimant(s) can prove to the water court
4. that the water has been continuously used.
5. We support legislation that would prohibit water courts from
6. reducing the flow rate, volume or season of use of any legitimate
7. water right that was used before 1973.
8. We recommend that the Water Court, Department of Natural
9. Resources and Conservation or any entity which may be responsible
10. for the general adjudication of Montana’s waters use the
11. comprehensive Supreme Court Rules of 1987 in a fair and equitable
12. manner to all.
13. We support full public disclosure of water rights negotiations
14. between the federal government, state government and tribal
15. governments. (2011)
16. **We support the expeditious water rights adjudication for**
17. **agriculture including the imposition of a maximum**
18. **adjudication fee of \$10 per right per year, not to exceed \$200**
19. **per year per agricultural user, used only to finish adjudication**
20. **and sun setting in 2028. We support the EQC oversight of these**
21. **funds through the adjudication process, providing that the**
22. **adjudication process meets set bench mark criteria and**
23. **provides yearly public reports on progress. Any funds left in**
24. **the adjudication process in 2030 should be put in the**
25. **administration and enforcement of water rights fund. We**
26. **support completing the adjudication of reserved water rights at**
27. **the same time. (2015)**
28. We believe all water users including agricultural, municipal, state
29. and federal agencies and the Indian tribes should share the cost of
30. adjudication. (2004)
31. We support a negotiated water agreement between: the State of
32. Montana, the federal government, the irrigators of the Flathead
33. Indian Irrigation Project and the Confederated Salish and
34. Kootenai Tribes. (2013)
35. We object to any grounds other than time and essence being used
36. to adjudicate water rights. (1997)
37. We oppose requiring mandatory water measurement on diversions
38. of any drainage including but not limited to creeks, streams, and
39. rivers that are not under a court ordered decree. (2014)
40. We recommend that the Chief Water Judge and other designated
41. water judges be permitted to continue to preside over the
42. adjudication procedure until it is duly completed.
43. We feel that the Department of Natural Resources and
44. Conservation should be responsible for water claimants attorney’s
45. fees incurred as a result of the Department of Natural Resources and
46. Conservation’s unsuccessful objections to water rights.
47. We support the present system of appropriation of water rights
48. through state water law and oppose any federal domination or
49. pre-emption of state water resource distribution formulas.
50. We support the implementation of a petition based procedure
51. which allows owners of pre-1973 exempt domestic and stock
52. water wells, or pre-1973 exempt surface water claim(s) for the
53. same purpose that are exempt from filing to submit their
54. claim(s) and evidence of seniority date, volume, and flow to
55. DNRC for investigation and subsequent inclusion in the

56. adjudication process of the water court.
57. We support a petition based procedure that provides for
58. a reasonable filing period with a concrete filing deadline, does
59. not significantly hinder the adjudication process and provides
60. protection of senior surface and groundwater rights. Otherwise no
61. late claims should be filed with a pre-April 30, 1982 Priority which
62. were passed over and not granted on a previous adjudication. (2012)
63. We support the constitutionally guaranteed prior appropriation
64. water right doctrine and also reaffirm our opposition to any attempt
65. to pre-empt, modify, or replace this doctrine in Montana Water Law
66. through the use of the Public Trust Doctrine, or any other judicial,
67. legislative, or executive branch vehicle.

WATER QUALITY

1. Underground fresh water should not be used in oil field flooding.
2. We are opposed to mining companies drilling water wells to
3. remove underground water to dry up mining pits. We favor the old
4. method of pumping the pits to leave the underground water as
5. undisturbed as possible.
6. We support an educational program to increase knowledge of
7. underground water quality.
8. We oppose any water quality decisions which adversely impact
9. established water uses by agriculture or other interests.
10. We oppose the removal of the limitation of “navigable water”
11. from water quality regulations or otherwise broadening the
12. reach of water quality regulations to non-Navigable waters. (2012)
13. We support maintaining acceptable water quality as defined by
14. the 1995 Legislature. Authority for determining impaired waters,
15. establishing standards and criteria, and developing and
16. implementing appropriate response programs and plans should
17. remain the responsibility of the state. Development of state plans
18. should rely heavily on local input. Furthermore, efforts to address
19. non point runoff and improve water quality programs should be
20. targeted toward impaired watersheds, using a “worst case first”
21. approach.
22. We recommend streams be checked by the Water Quality
23. Division of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality
24. using scientific data before sending out a list calling them impaired.
25. (2013)
26. In identifying water quality limited segments (WQLS) and total
27. maximum daily loads (TMDL), the responsible agency must use
28. scientifically sound criteria, verified by current field tests.
29. The Natural Resources Conservation Service should have the
30. primary function of providing educational and technical assistance
31. and not be a regulatory agency enforcing compliance with
32. environmental regulations. Natural Resources Conservation Service
33. should also serve as a private landowner advocate in working with
34. other federal, state and county agencies in overseeing compliance
35. with environmental regulations.
36. We support the concept of Mixing Zones as it appears in the
37. Montana Code Annotated as passed by the 1993 Legislature.
38. We recommend that hydro modification not be defined as
39. pollution.
40. We are opposed to discharge of contaminated water from methane
41. production into waterways. (2000)
42. We support legislation or studies assuring coal bed methane is
43. developed without harming existing operations or beneficial uses of
44. water. (2003)
45. We urge careful monitoring of numerical standards concerning
46. SAR (Sodium Absorption Rate) levels in coal bed methane
47. discharge. (2002)

STREAMBED ACCESS

1. We oppose scenic and wild river bills where they interfere with
2. the multiple use concept or where they conflict with property rights
3. or any reclassification which puts the Yellowstone or similar rivers
4. under study for admission as wild, scenic and recreational rivers.
5. We oppose the American Heritage Rivers Initiative and the draft
6. preferred alternative environmental impact statement for the
7. Columbia River Basin. (1997)
8. We support the Stream Bed Preservation Act. (2001)
9. We support legislation curbing activities of government agencies
10. who favor public stream bank access on private lands.
11. We recommend that the “high water mark” be defined as where
12. the vegetation starts and that dry stream beds do not qualify for
13. public access in implementation of Stream Bed Access Laws.
14. We recommend the present water line or high water mark,
15. whichever is lower, be the limit of use for recreational purposes
16. without landowner permission.
17. We recommend the land owner not be held liable for accidents or
18. injuries in the case of public use of stream bed access and/or across
19. private property.
20. The Montana Streambed Access Law should not be expanded to
21. include diverted water. (2006)
22. Where necessary and when absent from the existing road
23. easement, we support acquisition of “bridge recreation access”
24. through existing methods. We oppose expanding by declaration,
25. existing easements to include “bridge recreation access” where the
26. original intent did not include it. (2008)
27. We support FWP, County Commissioners, affected landowners
28. and resource managers collaborating to determine the appropriate

29. site specific "bridge recreation access" method and FWP assuming
30. the legal liability and the cost of installation and maintenance of the
31. access device and adequate parking. (2008)
32. We support allowing land owners to petition the decommissioning
33. or abandonment of an access at a bridge. (2008)

WETLANDS

1. **We urge the federal agencies and Congress to balance**
2. **wetlands protection with protection of private property rights,**
3. **including requiring compensation for regulatory takings of**
4. **private property or property rights. (2015)**
5. We support efforts to revise the wetlands manual that are
6. cognizant of the needs of agriculture.
7. We insist on realistic wetlands definitions that require the
8. presence of all three wetlands criteria (soil type and condition,
9. natural vegetation, and presence of water) before land can be
10. classified wetland.
11. **We oppose early spring imagery being used in the**
12. **determination of additional wetlands. (2015)**
13. We insist on the exclusion of prior converted croplands and
14. man made wetlands, and also the exemption of normal farming and
15. ranching activities on farmed wetlands.

ENERGY

1. We support research, production, sale and development of export
2. markets of ethanol, methanol and other renewable energies.
3. We recommend CRP acres be allowed out of contract without
4. penalty to grow oil seed that will be used toward fuel energy or
5. bio-diesel production. (2005)
6. We recommend the State of Montana grant a tax reduction on all
7. gasoline that contains at least ten percent ethanol and on all diesel
8. which contains at least 10% vegetable oil. (1999)
9. We support energy exploration in wilderness areas.
10. We support changing the strip mining act to allow restoration to a
11. more productive state than just its original state, if feasible.
12. Where mining occurs adjacent to streams, consideration should be
13. given to incorporating reservoir design into placement of coal
14. overburden.
15. We support hydraulic fracturing (fracing) as a viable method
16. of energy extraction as long as usable water, not used in the
17. process, is not contaminated. (2011)
18. We support continued cooperation with other farm organizations
19. to develop alternate energy forms.
20. We support wind power as a renewable alternative energy source.
21. (2004)
22. We support energy and transmission developers be bonded for
23. reclamation to include weed control including but not limited to
24. noxious weeds. (2008)
25. We support the free market system establishing fuel economy
26. standards.
27. We support small power producers' (less than 50KW) right to
28. carry over credits for electricity produced from month to month so
29. that net metering is figured on an annual basis. (2002)
30. We support the development of Montana coal resources in a way
31. which maximizes benefits to the people of Montana while
32. protecting the environment. (2004)
33. We support increased research for farm grown bio-fuel &
34. lubricants. (2005)

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

1. We oppose the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). (2006)
2. We support implementation of mandatory firebreaks on all present
3. and future Conservation Reserve Program contracts. (1997)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

1. We support the implementation of 208 programs of federal or
2. State agencies on a voluntary basis. If the 208 studies provide
3. ample proof for the need of new laws, let this be done by Congress
4. and the State Legislature and then allow the citizenry to comply
5. with law and due process, not regulation.
6. The detrimental effects of any chemical must be compared with
7. Its beneficial value. Agricultural chemicals, tools by which the
8. producer reduces costs both to the consumer and producer, should
9. be evaluated on the basis of research and scientific data so that the
10. interest of the farmers as well as those of the general public are
11. protected.
12. We oppose further restrictions on the purchase, transportation and
13. use of agricultural fertilizer. (2011)
14. We favor immunity from prosecution based on voluntarily
15. identified environmental problems in an environmental audit.
16. We recommend the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) be
17. required to file an environmental and economic impact statement
18. with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and
19. Conservation or other interested state and federal agencies before
20. imposing new regulations.
21. We oppose the Environmental Protection Agency ruling that
22. requires farmers and/or applicators of pesticides to place re entry
23. signs on sprayed fields.
24. Predatory animal control, including use of 1080, strychnine and
25. license aerial hunting, is necessary in order to achieve proper
26. livestock, wildlife and land management. It is also necessary to

27. control predators that are carriers of infectious diseases such as
28. rabies.
29. We oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's directives on
30. dust control in matters affecting any aspect of agriculture. (2010)
31. We oppose the expansion of EPA's Clean Water Act and Waters
32. of the U.S. rules. (2014)
33. We believe normal farming and ranching practices on both private
34. and public land should be exempt from providing Environmental
35. Impact Statements.
36. We support the "right to emit carbon" and priority consideration
37. of agriculture impacts from any climate change legislation or
38. policies. (2008)
39. We oppose cap and trade policies and classifying life cycle gases
40. as pollutants. (2008)
41. We oppose any climate change legislation that would adversely
42. affect any sector of agricultural production or the production of
43. energy. (2009)
44. We support voluntary recycling whenever feasible and research to
45. improve recycling technology.
46. Strict enforcement of our litter laws is necessary to protect our
47. environment. We recommend that the legislature address
48. themselves to the over all litter problems, rather than a
49. discriminatory policy on alcoholic and soft drink containers.
50. Oil well waste should be disposed of by the producer with the
51. least possible damage to the existing environment.
52. We support legislation to require tankage and removal of sludge
53. from oil well locations to an approved disposal facility; or use of a
54. solidification process to prevent seepage of sludge.
55. We recommend that federal and state Clean Water and Stream
56. Preservation Acts be modified to exclude normal farming practices,
57. and provide for simpler and faster action for applying for project
58. permits and approval. (2004)
59. We support a limitation on the number of times the
60. Environmental Protection Agency and government regulations can
61. hinder or change the standard for any particular development.
62. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency desist from its
63. ill advised effort to ban or restrict the use of wood preservatives.
64. We support the Tongue River petition, which would prevent
65. disruption of agricultural units from the cumulative affect of mining
66. in the Tongue River drainage, due to the detrimental affects of salts
67. and sodium in the water and the soils of the Tongue River drainage.
68. We support a prairie dog control program.
69. We recommend Montana underground storage tank rules be
70. amended to conform to Environmental Protection Agency rules
71. concerning exemption of tanks with less than 1,100 gallon capacity.
72. We recommend the repeal of the containment systems
73. requirement around farm fuel storage tanks and also recommend
74. the repeal of heat shut off systems on such tanks.
75. We recommend a personal warning be given before any fine is
76. levied on any violation pertaining to the above farm storage tanks.
77. We favor continued study of proposals to import garbage into
78. Montana so that an educated rather than emotional decision can
79. be made. A vote by the people in each county affected would
80. determine the issue for that county.
81. We recommend the statewide open burning season be extended
82. until later in the year.
83. We oppose the seeding of clouds for the purpose of the control of
84. rainfall by any entity.
85. We are opposed to ratification of the proposed Bio diversity
86. Treaty.
87. We oppose the banning of R12 refrigerant currently used in
88. refrigeration units. (2009)
89. We recommend MEPA (Montana Environmental Policy Act) be
90. removed from the Montana Code Annotated (MCA). (2003)
91. We recommend Montana mercury emission standards not be more
92. rigid than Federal EPA standards. (2006)

LAND USE PLANNING

1. We support action by the State of Montana in initiating a suit to
2. require the Federal Government to relinquish all land not required
3. for government operations, as outlined in the Constitution.
4. Due to migration, agriculture should move quickly to ensure their
5. right to continue to have sufficient land to: (1) ensure an adequate
6. supply of food and fiber for consumers, (2) have an economical unit
7. to ensure the most efficient method of production.
8. We support locally controlled programs that will reasonably
9. Ensure orderly planning with admonishment to agricultural people
10. that they must become involved if they expect to have agriculture's
11. interest incorporated in the overall plan.
12. We recommend Right-to-Farm legislation be passed to prevent
13. farming and ranching operations being classified as a nuisance.
14. (1998)
15. We recommend all rural subdivisions operate under mandatory
16. special improvement districts for their internal operation and we
17. support present occasional sale provisions for legitimate agricultural
18. operators.
19. We recommend that gifting of parcels of agricultural land to heirs
20. in portions less than 160 acres not be subject to review unless it is
21. diverted from agricultural use.
22. We recommend all subdivisions be required to conform to local
23. planning board standards.

24. We recommend that major or cumulative minor subdivisions in
 25. rural areas have an adequate operating permanent water source for
 26. fire protection in place before the subdivision is approved by county
 27. commissioners. (2013)
 28. We favor County Planning Boards rather than City County
 29. Planning Boards.
 30. We oppose the Attorney General's opinion allowing city residents
 31. to vote on county wide zoning. (2008)
 32. We recommend that the development of land use plans and
 33. regulations promulgated by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and
 34. Parks with land under their control should come under the
 35. jurisdiction of the County Planning Board.
 36. We recommend that any land use legislation provide that the
 37. individual land owners be included in the final decision on the use
 38. and disposition of their property.
 39. We recommend that property owners be justly compensated for
 40. any reduction in the value of their property due to involuntary
 41. zoning or the granting by the legislature or courts of general public
 42. easements on or across private lands.
 43. We oppose any decertification land study by Federal Land Use
 44. Planning groups.
 45. We are opposed to any further court use of the public trust
 46. doctrine or "theory of exaction" in Montana.
 47. We support legislation to clarify the determination of ownership
 48. and maintenance of boundary fences if a mutual agreement is not
 49. obtainable.
 50. We oppose development of "The Big Open" game preserve.
 51. We recommend that agriculture farms larger than 40 acres be
 52. exempt from uniform codes on buildings other than housing and
 53. commercial type buildings.
 54. We are opposed to rails to trails and similar programs and believe
 55. the land and/or right of way originally purchased by the railroads
 56. should be offered for sale to the adjacent land owners. (2004)
 57. We oppose any grazing exclusions included in conservation
 58. easements sponsored by state or federal agencies. (2004)
 59. We recommend streamside setbacks be limited to new residential
 60. and commercial structures and they be determined at the local level,
 61. in lieu of a fixed state-wide distance for rivers and streams. (2008)

PRIVATE LANDS

1. We believe that property rights are a necessary right for a free
 2. people and are protected under the fifth amendment of the U.S.
 3. Constitution. Any infringement on property rights without just
 4. compensation, by any government, public group or private citizen
 5. weakens all of our rights.
 6. We urge the Legislature to enact clear constitutional ethics
 7. legislation covering public officials and employees to prevent their
 8. participation in efforts to undermine or seize private property rights,
 9. particularly when a conflict of interest is present.
 10. We oppose any Family Farm Act that infringes on any individual
 11. property right or the production of agricultural products.
 12. We support a policy of "no net loss of private property", acreage
 13. and no loss of private property rights.
 14. We support legislation that would require government agencies to
 15. review their actions for possible takings of private property rights,
 16. require that takings be minimized, and provide just compensation
 17. for unavoidable takings.
 18. We are opposed to the use by state government agencies of legal
 19. theories in a manner that seeks to limit or take away private
 20. property rights, i.e. the "Public Trust Doctrine". (2003)
 21. We support legislation that would make government agency
 22. officials personally liable when by abuse of their authority they
 23. infringe on private property rights.
 24. Private ownership and operation of the major portion of the state's
 25. land resources is in the best interest of the public. Any judicial,
 26. legislative or other governmental action forcing access on or across
 27. private land to public land or surface waters is contrary to this
 28. concept and we oppose it.
 29. We support legislation which would legally abandon any county
 30. road which has not been maintained by the county for a period of at
 31. least 20 years and is not used as an access by a private property
 32. owner or leaseholder or their agent.
 33. We are opposed to recreational prescriptive easements on or
 34. across private lands.
 35. We are opposed to state and federal agencies gaining jurisdiction
 36. over roads outside the lands of that agency unless right of way is
 37. purchased.
 38. We support the property owners rights to control the outdoor
 39. recreational use on private land.
 40. We resolve that when dogs or other domestic animals come onto
 41. private property and injure or kill domestic livestock, fowl, or pets,
 42. the property owner or lessee, on whose property the offense
 43. occurred, should have the right to kill the trespassing animal and be
 44. paid compensation by the owner of the offending animal for
 45. damage to property, including veterinary bills for the injured
 46. animal. (2004)
 47. We support legislation that clearly protects private property rights
 48. along all streams and rivers in Montana.
 49. We support legislation requiring oil, mineral and gas
 50. development companies to make a good faith effort to reach a
 51. surface agreement prior to moving forward with exploration.

52. (2009)
 53. We recommend that a portion of real estate tax be assessed
 54. against severed mineral rights owners. If that portion of the tax is
 55. unpaid, redemption procedure should be the same as that presently
 56. employed for real estate. The owner of the real estate should be
 57. given priority in reclaiming mineral rights.
 58. We support legislation that all surface mineral rights are the
 59. possession of the land owner and no other entity can lay claim
 60. to said surface mineral rights. (2013)
 61. We believe sub-surface mineral rights are independent of above
 62. surface wind energy production rights. (2008)
 63. We support legislation strengthening laws which protect
 64. landowners' and renters' surface rights. (2003)
 65. We recommend abolishment of a tax on the "right of entry" and
 66. all separated "right of entry" be joined to the mineral rights.
 67. Energy companies should divest themselves of agricultural land
 68. when reclamation is completed following mining or drilling for
 69. energy fuel.
 70. The matter of surface damages should remain a matter to be
 71. negotiated between the producing company and the surface owner.
 72. We favor legislation which will provide for annual negotiated
 73. payments to surface land owners affected by oil and gas production.
 74. The annual negotiated payments are to cover the costs of surface
 75. land damages incurred by oil, gas and mineral exploration and
 76. development and for loss of agricultural production due to the same
 77. exploration and development.
 78. We favor legislation which will provide for annual negotiated
 79. payments to surface land owners whose property is used for
 80. transmission lines, both aerial and surface. Such annual negotiated
 81. payments are to cover surface land damages and loss of agricultural
 82. production due to development and continued use of such
 83. transmission lines.
 84. We favor total repeal of the 1902 acreage limitation law as
 85. amended.
 86. We believe that DNRC determination of navigability on streams
 87. that were not delineated in the federal land survey is a takings of
 88. private property. Change of streams courses should require certified
 89. land surveyors to determine appropriate ownership boundaries.
 90. Ownership of the abandoned channel along with surface rights and
 91. mineral rights should revert to an adjacent private landowner.
 92. (2008)
 93. We oppose any action that infringes on an individual's right to
 94. own and manage private property, including stream beds, stream
 95. banks, water rights, wetlands, mineral rights and adjacent private
 96. lands. To this end, if a stream bed has not become excluded from
 97. their property by some legal conveyance and the taxes are currently
 98. paid then a fence may be legally installed across a stream or
 99. waterway. (2002)
 100. We oppose federal or state agencies using aerial surveillance
 101. as the sole source of evidence to prosecute or issue penalties
 102. for alleged violations by legal agricultural entities. (2012)
 103. We recommend that royalty owners receive payment without
 104. formal request.
 105. Farmers and ranchers must retain the right to fence their property
 106. legally and in a manner which best suits their needs. (2002)
 107. We recommend existing trespass laws be more strictly
 108. enforced and a mandatory minimum \$2000 fine be imposed. (2004)
 109. We urge stronger trespass legislation which will insure that
 110. private property will be free from public use except with
 111. permission of the owner. This would include all privately held
 112. land including that under stream beds, ponds, sloughs and other
 113. surface waters.
 114. We recommend that no overnight camping or creation of any
 115. permanent duck blind, boat moorage, seasonal objects or any other
 116. object be allowed on private land without landowner permission.
 117. We favor limitations on excessive real estate acquisition by
 118. foreign entities or self serving organizations whose precepts of
 119. operation are not in agreement with the provisions of the U.S.
 120. Constitution.
 121. We recommend that 'valuable consideration' in the law be
 122. defined to be an amount in excess of a nominal administrative
 123. charge.
 124. We oppose any government agency or organization using
 125. government funds from entering the marketplace in competition
 126. against private enterprise in the purchase or acquisition of
 127. conservation easements.
 128. Fossils found on private land, or existing or future private
 129. archeological or paleontological collections should remain free of
 130. government restrictions.
 131. We are opposed to any influence or control by the United
 132. Nations upon any private land owned by a U.S. citizen.
 133. Native American tribes should be prohibited from governing or
 134. regulating, in any way, lands owned in whole or in part by non-
 135. Native Americans or a non-member of the tribe. (1998)
 136. We request that Congress pass legislation to waive sovereign
 137. immunity of Indian tribes in cases where the proposed action
 138. impacts or threatens the use of private property and allows lawsuits
 139. against tribes in state or federal courts. (1998)
 140. We support the right of a producer to use conservation
 141. easements, but oppose the use of a perpetuity time frame. (2002)
 142. We support additional oversight of land trust organizations

143. with regard to conservation easements. (2012)
144. We believe local, county, state, and federal employees should
145. notify a landowner and obtain permission prior to entering or
146. crossing private property for any reason other than an emergency.
147. Failure to do so should be considered trespassing. (2003)
148. We support landowners being included in making fire suppression
149. decisions when it involves private property. (2012)
150. We support programs, incentives and education to keep farms
151. and ranches in agricultural production without any separation
152. of private property rights, which may occur with conservation
153. easements. (2012)

STATE LANDS (PUBLIC LANDS & SCHOOL TRUST LANDS)

1. We support policy that requires leaseholders of all public lands
2. and/or school trust lands be either American citizens or corporations
3. with less than 20% foreign ownership.
4. We recommend the agricultural lessee of state lands have the first
5. option to lease the recreational rights of that land if they are
6. separated from the agricultural lease.
7. We believe the lessees of state lands should have the right to
8. obtain water rights on livestock water which they have developed
9. on that land, during the tenure of their lease.
10. We recommend state lands removed from traditional leases should
11. be required to return an equal amount of revenue to the State Trust
12. as those leased for "like" tradition leases. (2001)
13. We recommend school trust cropland be leased on a cash basis;
14. however, if there are no competitive bids, crop share leases shall be
15. allowed to continue. The cash lease must be comparable to other
16. agriculture crop cash leases in the area, contain provisions for lease
17. preference, allow negotiated payment schedules, and cannot be
18. inflated to obtain the land for uses other than agriculture. (2005)
19. We recommend state grazing leases be tied to the price of
20. livestock, and patterned after the federal Public Range Land
21. Improvement Act formula.
22. We recommend all school trust land used for agricultural
23. production should be offered to the prior lessee and he be granted a
24. hearing with the right of last refusal after the hearing. Lessee retains
25. all current rights and privileges.
26. When a bidder submits a bid for a state lands lease, they should be
27. required to post a bond equal to the buy out value of the previous
28. lessees' improvements. (2004)
29. We recommend the performance bond for all bidders on state trust
30. lands leases be 100% of the amount bid, as is required of an
31. incumbent lessee to match the high bid. (2004)
32. We recommend that when non-agricultural interests obtain leases
33. on state lands, that they bear the responsibility of fencing the leased
34. land out of privately owned property.
35. We support the management and control of pine beetle infestation
36. on DNRC lands. (2010)
37. We support legislation, rules and policy which will preclude the
38. trespass or use of leased public lands and school trust lands for any
39. purpose, except by permission of the lessee.
40. We recommend recreational permits to school trust lands be
41. restricted to specific parcels of land identified by legal description.
42. We oppose expanded public recreational use of legally accessible
43. leased school trust lands without reasonable management control by
44. the lessee.
45. We oppose corner crossings as a form of legal access. (2005)
46. We are opposed to public access to leased school trust land
47. through private property.
48. We recommend that the State not sell or transfer to private
49. ownership any school trust lands on which there are agricultural or
50. mineral leases, unless the lessee petitions to put the parcel up for
51. bid, sale or trade, and unless the proceeds are used to replace the
52. parcel with other land and/or investments of equal or greater
53. revenue producing potential for the school trust. We recommend
54. the State sell or lease unused parcels of non school trust land.
55. When school trust lands are sold, the lessee should be paid
56. replacement cost for improvements including range improvements.
57. (2004)
58. The present lessee should be given the right of first refusal to
59. purchase the state lands that they lease if offered for sale.
60. If other entities, such as recreationalists are allowed to use our
61. state lands along with agriculture, they should also share the
62. responsibility for the control of noxious weeds.
63. We recommend the Department of State Lands encourage a
64. range improvement incentive program on their grazing leases.
65. (1997)
66. We recommend state land in agricultural use be given first
67. preference to stay in agricultural use. (2004)
68. We oppose allowing the conversion of traditional cattle grazing
69. leases on state lands (school trust) to wild bison leases without
70. an environmental impact study and assurances that the wild
71. bison will be managed as livestock and controlled according
72. to permit requirements. (2011)
73. We oppose the trade of State School Trust Lands within the
74. Missouri River Monument boundaries for Federal Lands
75. outside the Monument. (2011)

PUBLIC LANDS

1. We recommend all federal lands, except those essential to federal
2. operations, be transferred to the state government in which these
3. lands are located. The preference rights and long time leases of
4. state lands should be retained by farmers and ranchers who
5. presently hold them.
6. Until these public lands do move into private ownership, their
7. management is a responsibility and an obligation of each generation
8. and sound conservation practices are of vital importance for their
9. maintenance. Therefore, we believe that multiple use and proper
10. management of public lands is in the public interest. The permit
11. holder or lessee should be informed of persons seeking entry to
12. public lands while being used for agricultural purposes. The
13. livestock industry has traditionally used public lands and should be
14. recognized for its continuing contribution to the total economy.
15. We oppose the degree to which Bureau of Land Management
16. regulates lessee's management policies.
17. We oppose the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
18. using the process of competitive bidding for any grazing permits,
19. guide and outfitter's permits, and any other permits on public lands.
20. We oppose the Bureau of Land Management allowing the
21. conversion of traditional cattle grazing leases to wild bison
22. leases without an Environmental Impact Study and assurances
23. that the wild bison will be managed as livestock and controlled
24. according to permit requirements. (2009)
25. Easements for access roads is an efficient and economical method
26. of preserving land in the hands of private ownership and should be
27. used whenever practicable.
28. We support a definition of federal land rights-of-way, as "any
29. road, trail, access or way upon which construction has been carried
30. out to the standard in which public rights-of-way were built within
31. historic context." (2005)
32. We support legislation requiring meaningful coordination and
33. concurrence with local governments prior to the closure and/or
34. obliteration of roads, trails and/or ways where the local government
35. may have a possible RS-2477 right-of-way claim. (2005)
36. We support county Commissioners being involved in the decision
37. to close roads on public lands. (2013)
38. We believe the practice of "cherry stemming" roads and trails into
39. roadless and wilderness areas is contrary to the original intent of
40. roadless or wilderness legislation. Furthermore, it should be
41. considered prima facie evidence that the areas containing "cherry
42. stemmed" trails and roads do not meet the legal standards for
43. roadless and/or wilderness areas. (2005)
44. We are opposed to mandatory transfer of abandoned county roads
45. to other agencies such as the Forest Service, Bureau of Land
46. Management, etc.
47. We support road building activity of the Forest Service for the
48. development of logging on Forest Service property under the
49. approved current Forest Service Plan, with strict control of noxious
50. weeds by the Forest Service.
51. We oppose federal agencies permanently closing established
52. roads. (2006)
53. We support yearly permits for motorized access being made
54. available for forest service permittees. (2010)
55. We oppose any further expansion of the wilderness system until
56. such time as agricultural concerns over water rights, grandfathered
57. irrigation dam maintenance, and other items are resolved to
58. agricultural satisfaction. Any increase in the wilderness system
59. should be of minimal size and not an infringement on the rights of
60. private property owners in the affected areas. (2013)
61. We oppose the designation or expansion of any national
62. monument without state and federal legislative approval. (2010)
63. We oppose the use of the Antiquities Act by the President of
64. the United States without the support and authorization of local
65. county commissioners and legislators. (2010)
66. We are opposed to the "let it burn" policy. (2007)
67. State, local, and federal governments must comply with the same
68. fire laws and regulations and realize the same liabilities on the
69. public lands they control as private individuals or businesses do on
70. their private lands. (2005)
71. We recommend all governmental agencies be liable for their
72. actions or lack of action for fire damage to private land and
73. property.
74. We support federal land agencies including the US Forest
75. Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service,
76. Fish & Wildlife Services, etc. and state agencies be liable for
77. damages on private lands resulting from prescribed burns and
78. wildfires, person-caused, and lightning caused that are managed
79. for resource benefit in lieu of full suppression that escape federal
80. and/or state owned lands that damage and/or burn onto private
81. lands. (2010)
82. We support all agencies that manage public land adopting strict
83. ordinances and regulations, which may require a cash or
84. performance bond for large group gatherings, to protect public
85. and adjoining private lands, the managing agency, local
86. government and local public service districts. (2013)
87. We support the concept of private ownership of federal lands. Due
88. consideration must be made to prior history of production value of
89. the land. The capitalization into private base property values of
90. attached grazing permit values must be fairly and equitably

91. recognized as prior partial payment of the permitted land.
 92. We support policy requiring multiple-use language in all federal
 93. and state land use plans, roadless area documents and statutes.
 94. (2005)
 95. We recommend a multiple-use definition should include and
 96. protect historical use and resource harvesting practices. (2005)
 97. We support legislation and rulings that preserve and facilitate the
 98. use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands,
 99. including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other
 100. specifically designated areas. (2004)
 101. We are opposed to further private land acquisition by the state and
 102. federal government unless it sells or trades land of equal value
 103. within the area involved. This includes lands under streams
 104. whether the acquisition is by purchase or by legislative or court
 105. action.
 106. We oppose the federal government plan to sell off federal lands
 107. now leased to farmers and ranchers unless a preferential policy is
 108. adopted which will favor agriculture and allow the present lessees
 109. and/or adjacent ranchers and farmers to purchase the land at a
 110. reasonable interest rate and payment period at a price based on the
 111. land's historical agricultural production.
 112. **We support that farmers or ranchers leasing allotments on**
 113. **state and federal lands be able to exercise their leases or be**
 114. **reimbursed by the state or federal government for the**
 115. **prevention of their right to exercise their lease. (2015)**
 116. We support shelter wood or select cuts as opposed to clear
 117. cutting except where clear cutting is consistent with sound
 118. silvicultural practices, provided the same amount of timber (over a
 119. larger area) is harvestable.
 120. We are opposed to the U.S. Forest Service "Ecosystem" Resource
 121. Planning Act (RPA) Long Range Plan.
 122. We are opposed to federal land and forest land planning rules that
 123. are climate change based, encompass adjoining private lands, and/or
 124. introduce non-native flora and fauna that would prove detrimental
 125. to private property. (2011)
 126. We support full payment of PILT (payment in lieu of taxes)
 127. money. (1999)
 128. We recommend that the current funding formula for PILT
 129. (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) be changed for the State of Montana to
 130. a flat cents per acre rate. (1997)
 131. We recognize the need for sustainable economic self-sufficiency
 132. of rural communities through the best use of the Public Domain
 133. Lands natural resources; whether for timber harvest, grazing,
 134. mining, recreation, or aesthetics. Therefore, we support making no
 135. changes to the Agricultural Reapportionment Act of 1908 as
 136. amended, and the O&C (Oregon and California grant lands) Acts
 137. of 1937 & 1939 as amended, and the Department of Interior
 138. Appropriations Act, 1952 (645 stat. 252), specifically, no
 139. "decoupling" of payments from actual gross forest receipts. (1999)
 140. We support lengthening the comment period on Bureau of
 141. Land Management Resource Management Plans. (2013)

EMINENT DOMAIN

1. We support legislation that will limit the use of eminent domain
 2. to those uses that are truly public, not private and not for public
 3. benefit. (2005)
 4. Units of government at all levels should strictly adhere to the
 5. intent of our eminent domain laws.
 6. Private property shall not be taken for resale to another private
 7. owner even if the new ownership will result in increased financial
 8. benefit to the governing body involved. (2003)
 9. Eminent domain laws shall not be used to take private property
 10. for wildlife enhancement or recreational purposes. (2003)
 11. We recommend a mandatory 90 day negotiation period prior to
 12. condemnation and require a condemner to have completed all
 13. condemnation proceedings, administrative and judicial, prior to
 14. taking control of the property.
 15. The appraised value, legal description and plot of any property
 16. proposed for acquisition by a public agency, federal, state or local
 17. should be made available to the property owner during the initial
 18. phase of negotiations for purchase and the need for condemnation
 19. must be established at that time.
 20. We recommend that when the powers of eminent domain are
 21. exercised to obtain easement or right of ways through privately
 22. owned land, the land owner should have the option of accepting a
 23. lump sum payment or an annual rental and such rentals should be
 24. adjusted periodically for inflation.
 25. We are opposed to the concept of environmental easements and
 26. are strongly opposed to the use of eminent domain to create
 27. environmental easements.
 28. We support legislation which would prohibit current eminent
 29. domain rights utilized for drilling, development and transmission of
 30. surface and ground water.
 31. We support legislation prohibiting the use of funds made available
 32. from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for acquisition of
 33. private property by condemnation. (2001)
 34. Landowners must be fairly compensated for all use or damage to
 35. their land. If there is an additional use of the land condemned the
 36. developers must negotiate with the landowner. (2000)
 37. Property should not be condemned in fee title if a lesser interest
 38. will suffice. (2000)

39. In cases of partial takings of real property, loss in value of any
 40. remaining real property should be recognized, and compensation
 41. paid for any damages which result. (2000)
 42. A landowner or tenant shall not be held liable for any accidental
 43. or inadvertent breakage or disruption of service of any lines, cables
 44. or pipelines. (2000)

PUBLIC UTILITIES

1. We support and seek legislation that will aid in the continuation of
 2. rural telephone and electric companies being able to provide
 3. reasonable rates to rural customers.
 4. We oppose the diversion of patron or cooperative funds to finance
 5. political or legislative activities, directly affecting the cooperatives.
 6. We favor the construction of hydroelectric plants and transmission
 7. lines to areas within the State of Montana and that where feasible
 8. multiple circuits be required and not more corridors.
 9. We support upgrades of all existing power transmission lines in
 10. order to accommodate electrical production from alternative
 11. sources. (2008)
 12. We oppose the creation of Public Utility districts.
 13. We oppose the State of Montana entering the business of power
 14. generation.
 15. We are opposed to rates that are discriminatory against production
 16. of agricultural products.
 17. We are opposed to any utility company charging a higher rate to
 18. customers because they have developed another source of energy,
 19. such as solar, wind, water or otherwise.
 20. We recommend the Public Service Commission resist the rate
 21. increases asked by the various utilities in the state and they should
 22. be asked to justify their rate increases.
 23. We support changes to the Montana Facility Siting Act which
 24. would provide a reasonable and more realistic regulatory climate
 25. under which any needed and desirable facility or facility changes
 26. could be effectively and feasibly completed.
 27. We support the creation of a Basin Management Plan to augment
 28. the Yellowstone Compact and provide a forum for a negotiated
 29. resolve to the conflicts over the Powder River and other tributaries
 30. of the Yellowstone.
 31. We oppose legislation requiring more stringent reporting
 32. requirements and fines by utility companies on construction
 33. activities by landowners on private land. (2001)

LIVESTOCK

1. We recommend strong enforcement of livestock brand inspection
 2. laws and urge the Department of Livestock to continue its program
 3. of educating and upgrading deputy brand inspectors.
 4. We support keeping the livestock brand renewal on a 10 year
 5. rotation. (2010)
 6. We support enabling online renewal of livestock brands. (2010)
 7. We support volunteer and deputy brand inspection duties being
 8. limited to brand inspections and beef check-off collection. (2010)
 9. Since the hot brand is the only proven means of positive
 10. identification we favor the continuation of this method as a deterrent
 11. to rustling.
 12. We favor a legal brand inspection on livestock hauled between
 13. summer and winter range when more than one county line is crossed
 14. and favor a grazing permit when crossing only one county line.
 15. We favor closer cooperation with surrounding states in the
 16. verification of trip permits and inspection papers to halt interstate
 17. transportation of stolen livestock.
 18. We recommend all livestock entering the United States be
 19. permanently identified as to country of origin. The incoming live or
 20. dressed and processed weight of cattle and hogs should be charged
 21. against the exporting country's quota.
 22. We support mandatory Country of Origin Labeling, with minimal
 23. adverse effects to U.S. producers. (2013)
 24. We oppose the federal government's attempt to require
 25. identification of each and every individual animal with 'implant
 26. identification pellets.
 27. We support a voluntary national identification system of United
 28. States livestock and animals that maintains producer privacy and
 29. producer's ownership of their data. (2006)
 30. We support a voluntary premise identification program that
 31. maintains producer privacy and producer's ownership of their data.
 32. (2006)
 33. We support the use of existing State Livestock Departments and
 34. current brand inspection systems and laws as a model for
 35. development of any imposed animal ID program. (2004)
 36. Health requirements on breeding livestock transported across the
 37. U.S. Canadian border should be equal and reciprocal.
 38. **We support application of specific animal health requirements**
 39. **for game farm animals and alternative livestock as defined by**
 40. **Montana code and administrative rule. (2015)**
 41. **We propose that the Montana Department of Livestock's**
 42. **present rules on importing livestock be reviewed, at least**
 43. **annually, by the Board of Livestock. (2015)**
 44. We support a program to contain and eradicate infectious livestock
 45. and/or wildlife disease outbreaks. (2008)
 46. We support Trichomoniasis testing by local veterinarians
 47. for in-herd use and grazing associations. (2010)
 48. We are in favor of a disease control plan and oppose the "split

49. state" proposal for brucellosis status management. (2007)

50. We support policy to keep the Yellowstone National Park bison in

51. the park borders in compliance with the Memorandum of

52. Understanding (MOU). (2007)

53. We believe the Montana Bison Quarantine Area should be

54. maintained as is and Fish Wildlife and Parks not be allowed

55. to transfer those bison to other public, private, government

56. or tribal property. (2011)

57. We support local government approval prior to any state,

58. federal or tribal agency transplanting into counties bison

59. or other livestock posing negative impacts on local economies

60. and private property rights. (2013)

61. We believe that all bison in Montana outside Yellowstone

62. National Park and the National Bison Range at Moiese should

63. be classified as livestock and subject to regulation by the

64. Montana Department of Livestock. (2011)

65. We oppose reclassifying domesticated bison as free roaming

66. or wildlife in need of management and using them in relocation

67. efforts by all government agencies, sovereign nations, private

68. individuals or non-profit organizations. Domesticated is defined

69. as; held in captivity or treated as livestock. (2013)

70. We support all bison be brand inspected before being transported

71. between counties to assure disease traceability. (2014)

72. We support producers electing Montana Board of Livestock

73. members by districts. (2012)

74. We favor retaining the Montana Department of Livestock and the

75. Montana Department of Agriculture as separate entities.

76. We support legislation that will provide adequate funding for the

77. Department of Livestock in a fair and equitable manner.

78. We recommend that control of the diagnostic center at Bozeman be

79. retained by the State Board of Livestock.

80. We oppose brand inspection fees being used to support the State

81. Animal Diagnostic Lab. (2014)

82. We support funding for the State Animal Diagnostic Lab in

83. Bozeman come from sources in addition to per capita livestock fees.

84. (2014)

85. We support the continuation of the State Animal Diagnostic Lab in

86. Bozeman. (2014)

87. We support requiring additional sources of funding, other than the

88. Department of Livestock or producers, for brucellosis testing due to

89. exposure of domestic livestock to diseased wildlife. (2014)

90. We support the retention of the State of Montana meat inspection

91. program.

92. We support programs utilizing multi-species grazing; i.e. sheep,

93. goats, cattle, for enhancement of rangeland management. (2004)

94. We support the right of Montana land owners to operate legal and

95. Disease free alternative livestock operations without undue

96. government control. (2007)

97. We support changing the Montana Department of Livestock's

98. agreement with USDA Wildlife Services to allow livestock

99. owners to contract directly for services in counties which do not

100. have a predator levy on livestock or in counties where predator

101. levy funds have already been expended. (2009)

102. We support legislation that requires any allegation of animal

103. cruelty to be reported within 10 days following the end of the

104. investigations of the incident. (2012)

105. We support a resolution to oppose the amendment from the

106. USDA (APHIS) that will allow imports of fresh, chilled or

107. frozen beef from countries where hoof and mouth

108. disease has been found. (2014)

109. We support formation of a statewide team of veterinarians,

110. veterinary technicians, extension agents, and livestock producers, to

111. be organized, educated, and supported by the state to provide an

112. organized, coordinated response and plan in the event of a foreign

113. animal disease outbreak or natural disaster, to protect our livestock,

114. livestock producers, and cloven hoofed wildlife from devastation.

115. (2014)

SHEEP AND GOATS

1. We support an effective ked (sheep tick) eradication program and

2. support effective Blue Tongue eradication programs and research.

3. (2008)

4. We support the National Scrapies Eradication Program for

5. traceability and animal ID to make Montana a scrapie-free state.

6. (2004)

7. We do not support any further identification program outside the

8. scrapie eradication program in place for sheep, unless it is

9. implemented under the existing scrapie eradication program. (2005)

10. We recommend sheep have a round trip pasture shipping permit

11. and records be kept of shipping and of markings when sold. (2005)

12. We support a mandatory sheep and goat check-off for promotion

13. of their respective industries. (2004)

14. We support a bounty on all problem predators. (2012)

15. Environmental concerns by the public must be addressed and

16. costs of compliance must not be a detriment to the sheep and goat

17. industry. (2004)

18. Animal welfare issues must be addressed in a manner not

19. detrimental to the sheep and goat industry. (2004)

20. We support the designation of sheep and goats as minor species,

21. so that cattle research data can be used to approve animal health

22. products for use in these species. (2004)

23. Meat animal identification costs must be borne by the public

24. sector, including radio frequency identification devices (RFID's).

25. (2004)

26. We support the Montana Sheep Institute and its goals and

27. activities and the Montana Sheep Extension Specialist. (2008)

28. We support effective mechanical and chemical control of predator

29. numbers. (2008)

30. We support the use of livestock protection animals on public

31. and private lands. (2010)

32. We support requiring Fish, Wildlife and Parks to obtain

33. affected private Landowner/lessee consent prior to the

34. transplanting of Bighorn Sheep into areas where domestic sheep

35. have historically grazed or are presently located. (2012)

36. We support the continuation of a functional Montana Wool Lab

37. managed by the state Sheep Extension Specialist located at a

38. permanent residence associated with Montana State University

39. in Bozeman. (2012)

40. We support marketing of lamb on a quality grade and yield grade

41. basis. (2013)

EQUINE

1. We recommend horses continue to be considered "livestock" and

2. oppose any differentiation between them and other livestock. (1999)

3. We oppose any law, regulation, or veterinary ruling that

4. would define animal husbandry activities including chiropractic

5. massage, light therapy, and farrier services as the practice of

6. veterinary medicine. (2013)

7. Individuals or operations who derive their primary source of

8. income from the use of or production of equines in a wilderness,

9. rural, or farm or ranch environment should be considered

10. agricultural operations. (2004)

11. We support and encourage legislation and rulings that allow

12. the sale, possession, processing and transport of horses intended

13. for human consumption. (2010)

14. We support and encourage domestic ownership, control, and

15. location of horsemeat processing facilities. (2003)

16. We oppose any law, regulation or veterinary board ruling that

17. would define equine reproduction activities including stallion

18. semen collection, mare artificial insemination and non-surgical

19. embryo retrieval and implant as the practice of veterinary medicine.

20. (2005)

21. We support horse racing in Montana. (2006)

22. We oppose any taxes, fees, check-offs or tariffs on equine

23. feeds, supplements or veterinary products to support any

24. existing or new state or federal feral equine programs. (2010)

25. We support the use of vaccine to prevent cycling in mares to

26. help slow the growth of the wild horse population. (2012)

27. We oppose the relocation of wild horses or burros from outside

28. Montana onto public land. (2013)

29. We oppose government funding for the boarding of wild horses

30. and burros and suggest the use of processing or sale of these

31. animals. (2014)

ANIMAL AND POULTRY CARE

1. We oppose any attempt to ascribe legal or constitutional rights to

2. animals. (2004)

3. We support initiation of legislation making it a felony for any

4. unauthorized release of experimental laboratory animals or

5. confined domestic agriculture animals.

6. We support an aggressive, comprehensive educational program

7. presenting the facts within our school system and to the general

8. public.

9. We oppose any legislative or regulatory actions which would tend

10. to prohibit good poultry, livestock and fur bearing animal

11. husbandry practices and increases costs to consumers.

12. We support legislation that designates as an illegal act, any person

13. acquiring a job under false pretenses with intent to obtain

14. information for special interest groups to use for

15. defamation of agriculture. (2013)

16. We support the right of livestock producers to administer

17. necessary vaccines and antibiotics for treatment and prevention

18. of disease. (2012)

APIARY

1. We support maintaining the Montana statutory distance of three

2. miles separation from commercial apiaries. (2013)

DAIRY

1. The dairy industry is a vital part of agriculture in the state and

2. producers should be protected from undue regulations that may

3. present an economic hardship.

4. We support having a full-time Extension Dairy Specialist to work

5. at Montana State University.

6. We support the appointment of one dairy producer on the State

7. Milk Control Board.

8. We support the Milk Control Board in its efforts to improve the

9. quality of milk by adjusting the pull dates on the milk on shelves in

10. the stores.

11. We oppose the federal assessment on milk.

12. We oppose federally subsidized dairy programs that operate to the

13. detriment of the beef cattle industry.

14. We urge the Milk Control Board to allow more producer input in
15. establishing the freight costs for raw milk in Montana.

ZOONOTIC DISEASES

1. Since brucellosis is a dangerous disease agent transmittable from
2. wildlife to domestic livestock and humans, we support the
3. enactment of a mechanism and the appropriation of funds to require
4. federal agencies in custody of wildlife to compensate livestock
5. owners and other aggrieved entities for actual expenses and losses
6. brought about by conflicts from these wildlife when such losses can
7. be substantiated.
8. We support an effective brucellosis eradication program for
9. domestic and wild animals.
10. We support updating state and federal rules regarding vaccination
11. of cattle to coincide with RB51 vaccine science versus Strain 19
12. vaccine, including mandatory vaccination of heifers for breeding,
13. and possibly adult cattle. (2008)
14. We recommend all Yellowstone Park bison testing positive for
15. brucellosis be harvested. (2007)
16. We recommend all bison captured or migrating from Yellowstone
17. Park be tested for brucellosis. If they test negative they should be
18. electronically tagged in each ear and vaccinated before release.
19. (2007)
20. We support bison being subject to the same brucellosis
21. standards as cattle. (2009)
22. We recommend the Department of Livestock continue to monitor
23. brucellosis so that Montana can maintain its certified brucellosis
24. free status.
25. We recommend mandatory brucellosis vaccination of all
26. replacement heifers and breeding females in the State of
27. Montana. (2010)
28. We support reimbursement, by the state and/or federal
29. government, to producers who are required to complete
30. the brucellosis blood testing. (2010)
31. We recommend non-brucellosis vaccinated female cattle may be
32. imported under a hold order for vaccination or spaying within 30
33. days of arrival as determined by the state veterinarian. (2008)
34. We recommend non-brucellosis vaccinated female cattle, from
35. those brucellosis class free states or provinces approved by the
36. Montana Board of Livestock, be ineligible for importing. (2008)
37. We support local governments' right to coordination status for
38. input into management plans proposed by the Interagency Bison
39. Management Plan (IBMP) Committee. We believe the IBMP's
40. management decisions must consider the economic well being,
41. health and safety of the citizens living in the counties adjacent to
42. Yellowstone National Park. (2010)

FIELD CROPS

1. We oppose the use of DHV (dark, hard, vitreous kernels) and
2. HVAC (hard, vitreous, amber color kernel) quality test for all spring
3. and durum wheat. We recommend the development of a more
4. consistent and objective test for determining their quality. (2008)
5. We recommend the State Inspection Lab retain all grain samples
6. for ten (10) days to allow producers time to appeal.
7. We support continuation of and promote the use of the Montana
8. State Grain Lab.
9. We believe Farm Service Agency grain acreage allotments be
10. based on past grain operations.
11. New land just broken for farming should be farmed at least five
12. years before it can be considered for government programs.
13. We support adjustments to the Farm Bill commodity title, using
14. USDA cost of production data to provide equitable support between
15. program crops. (2006)
16. We encourage MSU to establish at each experimental station a
17. dedicated acreage in an organic system for the purpose of yield
18. trials and other research projects. (2004)
19. We are opposed to government subsidies being paid to plow
20. virgin sod on fragile lands.
21. We support policies and practices that encourage the production
22. of high protein, high gluten content wheat with good milling and
23. baking quality, so that Montana farmers can retain their export
24. market for high quality. (2004)
25. We recommend the protein content of wheat be measured on a dry
26. matter basis.
27. We recommend reducing the time lapse between binding and
28. coverage on crop hail insurance to one midnight. (1998)
29. We support producer-generated Global Positioning System data
30. be allowed to supplement Farm Service Agency and Crop Insurance
31. purposes. (2011)
32. We recommend the Federal Crop Insurance deadline for northern
33. tier states be May 15 on spring planted crops. (2006)
34. We recommend grain elevators and warehouses be required to
35. follow recommended procedures in obtaining protein samples and
36. secure them in such a manner that they cannot be tampered with and
37. that farmers be given much better recourse if the protein returns are
38. in question.
39. We support GMO (genetically modified organisms) research.
40. (2002)
41. We recommend GMO (genetically modified organisms) wheat not
42. be introduced into Montana until there are acceptable markets
43. available. (2003)

44. We support the establishment of reasonable allowances for the
45. adventitious presence of GMO in non-GMO crops. (2010)
46. We support the use of peer-reviewed science as the major
47. criteria for introduction or restriction of GMO crops. (2010)
48. We recommend committee persons for the Wheat and Barley
49. Committee be elected by those people who pay the Wheat and
50. Barley assessment, that the executive director and staff of the Wheat
51. and Barley Committee be hired by the Wheat and Barley
52. Committee, and that the Committee have complete authority over
53. the assessment funds. (2005)
54. We support re-evaluating the "Pack Factor" method for the
55. measurement of commodity for Federal Crop Insurance. (2012)
56. We believe acres planted for conservation programs designed to
57. promote soil health that are destroyed by the June 15th crop
58. insurance deadline should be considered "fallow" for the following
59. year's crop, including fall planted crops. (2012)

SUGAR

1. We support:
2. (1) A program to protect the interests of domestic sugar producers
3. and recommend that any appropriate legislation should include a
4. sugar title with provisions that ensure a strong and economically
5. viable domestic sugar industry;
6. (2) Retention of the current loan rate as a minimum;
7. (3) Elimination of the marketing assessment fee(s) or loan
8. forfeiture penalties; and
9. (4) Increased research and development funding for bio-based
10. energy and bio-based products utilizing sugar crops. (2006)
11. (5) Including sugar in WTO agreements while not penalizing one
12. agricultural commodity in favor of another. (2006)
13. (6) Including sugar in WTO agreements while not sacrificing
14. agricultural production in favor of other economic activities. (2006)
15. (7) Including sugar in WTO agreements and excluding it from all
16. Free Trade Agreements (FTA's). (2006)

MARKETING & BARGAINING

1. We support the Beef Promotion and Research Act. We believe it
2. should be producer controlled.
3. We support collection and distribution of producer checkoff
4. dollars by the most efficient means. (2010)
5. We recommend a \$.25 per head increase (for a total of \$1.25
6. per head) in the state beef checkoff assessment to be used by
7. the Montana Beef Council. (2012)
8. We support:
9. (1) An opportunity to petition for a referendum. The beef
10. referendum process should be revised to provide producers the
11. opportunity to petition every five years for a referendum on
12. continuing the checkoff. Ten percent of beef producers signing the
13. petition at county offices will trigger the USDA to conduct a vote
14. within a year.
15. (2) An adjustment of the checkoff rate. To assure strong demand-
16. building initiatives for the beef industry in the future and to offset
17. 20 years of inflation, adjust the per head checkoff rate. The 50-50
18. split between state beef councils and Cattlemen's Beef Board would
19. remain the same. The industry will need to approve any checkoff
20. rate change through a referendum.
21. (3) Enhanced understanding of the Federation of State Beef
22. Councils. Improving the identity and awareness of the Federation
23. of Beef Councils is a top priority.
24. (4) Making the checkoff more inclusive. Any reference to the
25. charter date of established national non-profit industry governed
26. organizations should be eliminated from definition (1260.113c) in
27. the Beef Promotion and Research Order. (2006)
28. We are opposed to the implementation of a new supplemental
29. Beef Check Off program that would operate under the 1996
30. Commodity Promotion Research and Information Act, separate
31. from our current 1985 Beef Promotion and Research Act. (2014)
32. We support Montana Bureau of Weights and Measures certifying
33. scales on a regular basis. If unable to complete certification in
34. a timely manner, an extension should be granted. (2012)
35. We recommend all meat served in Montana school lunch programs
36. and at Montana State institutions be meat of U.S. origin.
37. We recommend the Automated Import Inspection System (AIIS)
38. randomly choose the sides of meat on inspected truckloads of
39. swinging carcasses.
40. We recommend an audit of the Meat Inspection System to insure
41. regulations are being followed. Rejected lots of meat should be
42. tracked.
43. We recommend that all imported meats be clearly labeled at the
44. retail level as to country of origin.
45. We urge the vigorous enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards
46. laws and regulations and the Sherman Anti Trust Act.
47. Livestock packers who process more than five percent (5%) of the
48. national daily slaughter should be required to report all cash and
49. contract prices and terms of sale to the Federal Market News
50. Service. (1999)
51. We support efforts to protect the cattle industry from unfair trade.
52. (1999)
53. We recommend the United States Department of Agriculture
54. quality stamp only be used on U.S. born, raised and processed
55. livestock. (2002)

56. We recommend the Montana Department of Agriculture monitor
 57. rather than attempt to regulate storage rates for grain in elevators.
 58. We support improved quality standards for export grain
 59. inspection.
 60. We support grain quality preservation from the producer to the
 61. final destination.
 62. We support an increase in bonding levels required for grain
 63. dealers to an amount equal to 5% of a dealer's total
 64. commodity sold in a 12 month period, with a \$3 million
 65. cap per dealer. (2012)
 66. We support inclusion of information in grain purchase
 67. contracts which details the availability of bonding or insurance
 68. on deferred-payment agreements. (2012)
 69. We support legislation to protect producers from being forced
 70. to deliver grain contracted to a bankrupt elevator. (2012)
 71. We support enforcement of collateral requirements when a
 72. lienholder's name is required to be included on the checks for one
 73. share of a crop share lease. The lienholder's name must not be
 74. included on the share where it is not required. (2010)
 75. Any action by Congress to offer financial assistance for depressed
 76. grain prices should encourage movement or sales of grain, not
 77. storage. (1998)
 78. We recommend that the burden of proof of whether an operator is
 79. in compliance with a regulatory order should be with the agency
 80. who issued the order rather than the operator. We further
 81. recommend that a manner of appeal on the order of a regulation
 82. board be provided.
 83. We favor expanding foreign markets to full potential.
 84. We promote Trade Promotion Authority. (2001)
 85. We support a wheat classification and inspection system that is
 86. uniform across the USA-Canadian border. (2014)
 87. We recommend that before Congress approve Fast Track
 88. authority that the President will guarantee direct input from all
 89. agriculture and agricultural commodity groups. (1997)
 90. We oppose the formation of Free Trade America Agreement
 91. (FTAA) with South America. (2001)
 92. We propose that farm imports and exports be published in units of
 93. measurement and monetary value.
 94. We oppose the importation of meat, raw or cooked, whose
 95. origin or handling of product does not recognize or comply with
 96. USDA standards. (2013)
 97. We oppose price differentials on chemicals between countries.
 98. (2001)
 99. We favor helping financially distressed farmers and ranchers with
 100. programs that are not detrimental to the general agricultural
 101. community.
 102. We support unrestricted export of farm commodities except in
 103. times of national emergency and then only if similar restrictions are
 104. made on the export of manufactured goods and technology.
 105. We support uniform state and national standards for marketing all
 106. ag commodities including hay.
 107. We oppose the establishment of a National Industrial Policy
 108. Board.
 109. We oppose any merger or acquisition which tends to create a
 110. monopoly of production and/or marketing in the livestock industry.
 111. We support legislation that will require audit and public
 112. disclosure of the financial viability of all licensed businesses which
 113. accept and are entrusted with the proceeds of livestock, grains or
 114. any other agricultural products.
 115. Tampering with the proceeds or custodial funds will be
 116. considered a felony.
 117. We support the establishment of a system within the Montana
 118. Department of Agriculture to provide for mediation and
 119. arbitration services for the resolution of disputes among or
 120. between Montana agriculture producers, agriculture suppliers,
 121. buyers, handlers, or merchandisers. The costs of such services
 122. shall be borne by the parties involved in the mediation. (2010)
 123. We do not support mandatory labeling of food products that
 124. contain Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's). (2013)
 125. We support a voluntary and uniform labeling system for
 126. GMO designated products. (2015)

WEED CONTROL

1. The control of plant pests and diseases is an important factor in
 2. reducing farm costs. Agricultural interests should cooperate with the
 3. existing Weed Control Law and work for its improvement and city,
 4. county, state and federal agencies, railroads, public utilities and
 5. industrial forest wood users should pay their own share. (2004)
 6. We support requiring any government agency, private landowner,
 7. industrial land user, or public utility making the control of noxious
 8. weeds a top priority. (2004)
 9. We recommend the use of certified, weed-free seed for
 10. reclamation. (2004)
 11. We support the development of incentive programs and rewards
 12. for farms using good weed control and encourage existing incentive
 13. programs and tax rewards to incorporate weed control as criteria.
 14. (2004)
 15. We support use of sheep, goats, and other livestock as a tool for
 16. noxious weed control and the education of the public that it is an
 17. environmentally friendly method of integrated weed management.
 18. (2005)

19. We recommend all public land agencies be required to control
 20. noxious weeds on their lands and prohibit planting of noxious
 21. weeds for reclamation.
 22. We support giving county weed boards the authority to close
 23. fishing access sites if onsite noxious weeds are not controlled.
 24. (2007)
 25. We support legislative action making it illegal to sell or advertise
 26. noxious weed plants or seeds for private use, including birdseed,
 27. garden or ornamental seeds.
 28. We recommend that cities, towns and subdivisions be required to
 29. control noxious weeds.
 30. We recommend that the county weed boards enforce their
 31. programs to more effectively control noxious weeds.
 32. We support notification by certified mail, to the landowner
 33. and/or the landowner's agent, of any action intended or
 34. requested by a weed district. (2012)
 35. We support continued research into integrated pest management
 36. of agricultural invasive species in Montana. (2013)
 37. We support county weed boards providing more education,
 38. identification and management of aquatic weeds. (2012)
 39. We support continued and expanded boat and watercraft
 40. inspections for noxious weeds. (2012)
 41. We support further research on Eurasian Water Milfoil and
 42. other aquatic invasive species that are potential hazards to
 43. agriculture. (2012)
 44. We support a permanent fund for the prevention and
 45. control of aquatic invasive species. (2014)
 46. We recommend the State Highway Department and railroads
 47. improve their weed control program.
 48. We recommend that programs put on by chemical companies and
 49. certified by the Extension Service be acceptable for acquiring points
 50. toward pesticide license re-certification.
 51. We recommend secondary school students be made aware of
 52. weed problems and how it will affect them.
 53. We recommend agencies administering the Crop Reserve
 54. Program acres be more stringent in controlling weeds and insects
 55. generated by the program.
 56. We recommend any grass seed imported or sold in Montana be
 57. labeled for the varieties and percentage of weed seed it contains.
 58. Conservation access and other easements should specify who is
 59. responsible and define what noxious weed control obligations are
 60. necessary on affected property.
 61. Appropriations and work projects designated for rehabilitation of
 62. fire damaged areas should consider the threat of noxious weed
 63. infestations on burned and disturbed land. (2000)
 64. We recommend protection of the Noxious Weed Trust Fund from
 65. dispersals to interests that would divert funds toward areas not in
 66. noxious weed management. (2002)
 67. We recommend all agricultural producers, county weed control
 68. supervisors, government land managers, and agricultural
 69. organizations become very active in urging Animal and Plant
 70. Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to approve the petitions for
 71. release of bio-control agents. (2004)
 72. We do not support listing the Russian Olive tree or bush as a
 73. regulated noxious weed. (2007)
 74. We encourage county weed boards and conservation districts
 75. to review their invasive species list when research supports
 76. that designation. (2013)

CRIME CONTROL

1. We favor local control of police by local government and oppose
 2. any national police force.
 3. We recommend any arrests required by a federal government
 4. agency will be made in cooperation with the sheriff of the county
 5. where the arrests are to take place.
 6. The development and enforcement of laws controlling the
 7. manufacturing, importation and distribution of narcotics should be
 8. supported as deterrents to crime. Penalties should be commensurate
 9. with the crime severe enough to act as a deterrent to further criminal
 10. acts.
 11. Imposition of sentence should be certain.
 12. As a deterrent to crime, we recommend on conviction of theft,
 13. arson or vandalism, full restitution be made by the person convicted
 14. to the person or persons who suffered the expense of the crime as a
 15. part of the sentence imposed.
 16. Crimes committed with deadly weapons, against people, should
 17. require a mandatory sentence without parole.
 18. We support legislation making it a felony for any person to
 19. destroy or vandalize private property.
 20. We support making public the identity of a juvenile convicted of a
 21. felony.
 22. We believe that it should be a felony for persons to release those
 23. animals on the 'endangered species list' or their hybrids which are
 24. predators of domestic animals. Persons who raise these animals
 25. should be registered, licensed, owner bonded and held liable for all
 26. damages done by said animals. (2004)
 27. We support legislation requiring permanent individual
 28. identification of privately owned canines containing any amount
 29. of wolf blood. These animals will be registered with the
 30. appropriate state or county agency.
 31. We oppose the current practice of the judicial system issuing the

32. minimum sentence imposed on an offender and then suspending the
 33. sentence.
 34. We favor a state law to prevent parole boards and judges from
 35. releasing violent criminals from prison before they have served their
 36. sentences. When released the victims and the prisoners home
 37. community will be given advance notice.
 38. We favor the adoption of a habitual criminal law.
 39. We support the enforcement of the death penalty in crimes on first
 40. degree murder convictions.
 41. We recommend stronger enforcement against non-licensed aerial
 42. hunting which creates harassment of livestock and wild game.
 43. We urge Farm Bureau members to seek the support of the general
 44. public and media producers in an effort to stamp out this
 45. pornographic menace to the moral fiber of our nation. We also
 46. demand strict enforcement of our anti pornography laws with
 47. extremely severe penalties imposed when children are used in
 48. production of pornography of any kind.
 49. We support legislation that would limit the amount of time that
 50. the Montana Supreme Court may have in making a decision in
 51. cases involving first degree murder. We support limiting the
 52. number of court appeals for convicted felons.
 53. We recommend the sentence for every crime be carried out
 54. quickly.
 55. We support greater involvement by parents and communities in
 56. the war on drugs.
 57. We favor minimum security prisoners be required to work on
 58. highways, prison farms or other public projects to help defray the
 59. cost of their food and support.
 60. We favor accepting offers from Mexico and other foreign
 61. countries to board hardened criminals for a fee that is much less
 62. than the cost of keeping them in American prisons.
 63. We support increased security and policing of national borders.
 64. (2001)
 65. We support our Governments' fight against terrorism. (2001)
 66. We recommend stronger laws to get the drunken drivers off the
 67. road. (2002)
 68. Illegal aliens should not be eligible for non-emergency
 69. state and local government services. (2011)

FIRE ARMS

1. We support the right of people as individuals to keep and bear
 2. arms without registration or control. (2000)
 3. We support the right of the people to purchase and possess
 4. ammunition and/or ammunition components without registration,
 5. restrictions, control or punitive taxes. (2000)

FEDERAL AND STATE INDIANS

1. We support legislation to halt the purchase, by tribal governments,
 2. of land, outside the reservations, and putting such land in "trust"
 3. status.

FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

1. We are opposed to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 2. purchasing agricultural land. (2008)
 3. We support transfer of land management activities on FWP
 4. controlled land to DNRC. (2010)
 5. We support legislation requiring Montana Fish, Wildlife and
 6. Parks Commission to set harvest quotas and regulate the harvest of
 7. wildlife in a manner that represents biologically sound management
 8. of big game populations of deer, elk, and antelope to control the
 9. impacts those game animal populations have on private property.
 10. (2002)
 11. We support legislation requiring the State of Montana to manage
 12. wildlife in a sustainable manner, not causing serious economic
 13. hardship to private property owners. (2002)
 14. We support requiring FWP to address weed management on
 15. all property under their management. (2009)
 16. We support FWP maintaining an agricultural grazing
 17. component on acquired properties equivalent to historic rates.
 18. (2009)
 19. We support a policy of zero land growth for FWP. (2009)
 20. We support efforts of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks to update
 21. population goals of elk, based on carrying capacity of the land
 22. for the combined populations of wild and domestic grazing animals.
 23. (1997)
 24. We support the development of effective strategies for
 25. Maintaining wildlife populations within realistic goals. (1997)
 26. We recommend management plans adopted for sage grouse on
 27. public or private lands use range management practices and
 28. guidelines already approved for livestock grazing. (2001)
 29. We support maximum hunting harvest opportunity on federal
 30. lands to relieve over use of private lands by wintering big game
 31. herds. (2006)
 32. We recommend that at least two members of the Department of
 33. Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission be farmers or ranchers
 34. actively engaged in agricultural production.
 35. We support private property owners' representation on the "rules-
 36. making" committee of the block management program. (2004)
 37. We recommend administrative personnel within the Department
 38. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks be limited to their January 1, 2011
 39. numbers or less. (2011)

40. We support management of FWP's property, accesses and
 41. conservation easements to comply with "best management
 42. practices". (2008)
 43. We oppose any effort by Fish, Wildlife and Parks to expand their
 44. own police force. (2010)
 45. We recommend the income from the sale of fishing and hunting
 46. licenses in the State of Montana be put directly into the general
 47. fund.
 48. We support legislation which will require the Department of Fish,
 49. Wildlife & Parks to operate on a budget under direct state
 50. administered laws the same as any other branch of state
 51. government.
 52. We recommend a legislative oversight committee review the
 53. promulgated rules of the Montana Fish and Game Commission.
 54. We support legislation requiring Fish, Wildlife and Parks to
 55. reimburse counties or individuals for impacts incurred by Fish,
 56. Wildlife and Parks programs and policies. (1999)
 57. We oppose excessive increases in hunting license fees. (2004)
 58. We support state regulation of the Fish & Game Commission
 59. to make sure that game quotas are agreed upon by the Game
 60. Commission as well as the active regional game biologists.
 61. We recommend the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks offer
 62. qualified landowner preference to all game species. (1999)
 63. We recommend Montana resident hunters contribute to the block
 64. management programs. (1998)
 65. We support continued funding for the block management
 66. program. (2004)
 67. We recommend the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and
 68. Parks develop a Block Management Plan (BMP) for fishing access
 69. similar to the hunting BMP. (1997)
 70. We support the initiation of a more positive coyote and predator
 71. control policy by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in
 72. cooperation with other agencies. (2014)
 73. We support continued legal trapping of fur-bearing and non
 74. fur-bearing animals, pests, and predators as a legitimate wildlife
 75. management tool on all public and private lands. (2009)
 76. We oppose requiring training or certification through Fish,
 77. Wildlife and Parks to be licensed to trap wolves, predators or other
 78. fur bearing animals in Montana. (2013)
 79. We support the continued harvest of wild fur bearing animals,
 80. including the processing, sale and use of the resulting product.
 81. (2011)
 82. We support the implementation of a comprehensive predator
 83. management program, linking population goals to the availability of
 84. a sustainable non-domestic prey base. (2000)
 85. We recommend 40% of wildlife habitat acquisition money be
 86. used to provide landowner compensation for allowing public
 87. hunting on their property.
 88. We support legislation that any farmer or rancher who suffers a
 89. loss due to big game animals or predators be compensated by the
 90. Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks or the State of Montana,
 91. whomever assumes ownership and/or control of game animals or
 92. predators; with preference given to the farmer or rancher who
 93. allows reasonable hunting on his land, where feasible.
 94. We oppose wildlife depredation on private land and consider it
 95. uncompensated takings and Fish, Wildlife and Parks or the State
 96. of Montana will be held liable for damage.
 97. We oppose a drop dead zone and any expansion of the
 98. Yellowstone Park buffer zone for bison. (2006)
 99. We support enforcing the YNP Bison Management program in
 100. place, maintaining the border as is without a buffer zone. We
 101. support the National Park Service capturing, testing for brucellosis
 102. and either vaccinating, tagging and releasing, if negative, or
 103. harvesting if infected by brucellosis of bison outside or inside the
 104. Park. (2007)
 105. We support allowing FWP to haze and/or harvest wildlife for
 106. disease control and/or crop depredation. (2008)
 107. We believe any wildlife species, outside of a protected park or
 108. preserve, can be legally harvested during the regular hunting season
 109. with a current Montana hunting license for that species. (2002)
 110. We support allowing only vaccinated or sero-negative bison in
 111. any "Special Management Areas" (SMA's) approved by the State
 112. of Montana to provide additional winter range for bison. (2000)
 113. We oppose the establishment of wild or free roaming
 114. bison. (2010)
 115. We support quarantining the wildlife in Yellowstone Park until it
 116. is certified free of brucellosis and tuberculosis.
 117. We support management of wildlife numbers within national
 118. park boundaries including but not limited to bison, and wildlife
 119. management areas consistent with range carrying capacity as
 120. developed using standard range management analysis. (2006)
 121. An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) by Montana Fish,
 122. Wildlife and Parks shall be required before they poison fish in
 123. natural streams, lakes or public impoundments within the State of
 124. Montana to insure those living downstream will not be affected.
 125. (1999)
 126. We favor keeping the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 127. and the Department of Natural Resources as separate units of State
 128. government. (2004)
 129. We recommend Gamebird Shooting Preserves release only NPPI
 130. (National Poultry Improvement Program) certified gamebirds

131. that are fully feathered and at least 12 weeks old. (2002)
132. We recommend strengthening the law prohibiting feeding bears
133. and wild ungulates. (2007)
134. We are opposed to the planting prairie dogs, wolves, bears,
135. and coyotes, on public and private lands. (2009)
136. All county governments and affected private landowners must be
137. notified prior to the release of any wildlife within the county
138. boundaries and the location of such release shall be disclosed.
139. (2004)
140. We support local government approval prior to any state, federal
141. or any tribal agency transplanting into counties any wildlife posing
142. negative impacts on local economies and private property rights.
143. (2013)
144. We support requiring Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to have
145. at least one radio collared wolf in all wolf packs as required by
146. statute. (2014)
147. We support directing funds from the sale of wolf hunting licenses
148. to the Department of Livestock for the reimbursement to livestock
149. owners for damages caused by wolves. (2009)
150. We oppose efforts to prohibit the use of Conibear, leg hold traps
151. and snares. (2000)
152. We support requiring the hunter or fisherman to obtain permission
153. from the landowner before entering private property. (2002)
154. We are opposed to Fish Wildlife and Parks prohibiting private
155. landowners from obtaining trout stocking permits for private ponds
156. and/or lakes. If a permit is denied, Fish Wildlife and Parks must
157. provide scientific proof of adverse effects to water rights or wild
158. trout populations. (2009)
159. We recommend placing a disclaimer on Wildlife Conservation
160. Licenses which when signed absolves the landowner or agent from
161. all liability.
162. We recommend it be mandatory that all county court costs and
163. fines be paid by the violator of the Department of Fish, Wildlife
164. and Parks laws.
165. We recommend that fire arms or bow hunting of any kind not be
166. allowed without landowner permission, in regards to hunting
167. within stream beds.
168. We oppose any further reduction of livestock AUM's on the
169. C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. (2008)
170. We are opposed to any government funding or research for
171. any alteration of the natural predation or disease of prairie
172. dog populations in the United States. (2014)

PREDATORS

1. We support primary authority for predator control residing
2. with the Department of Livestock and/or County Predator
3. Control Districts. (2014)
4. We support counties adopting their own predator control policies.
5. (2014)
6. We support the definition of livestock loss to include livestock
7. losses as defined by the Department of Livestock's per capita fee
8. and working dogs killed or injured by wolves, mountain lions, black
9. bears, or grizzly bears. (2014)
10. We support including livestock depredation by wolves,
11. mountain lions, black bears, and grizzly bears in the Livestock
12. Loss Reduction Program. (2014)
13. We support continued state classification of the wolf as a species
14. in need of management, so that wolves may be hunted,
15. trapped, and otherwise controlled. (2014)
16. We support owners of domestic livestock killed by predators,
17. be reimbursed for the full replacement cost. (2009)
18. We support increasing funding for predator control for
19. Wildlife Services. (2013)
20. We support amending Montana Code Annotated 87-3-127 (1999)
21. to include wolves and grizzly bears in the definition of stock
22. killing animals. (2000)
23. We support the right of the landowner to protect themselves,
24. families, livestock and properties from all predators such as grizzly
25. bears, mountain lions and wolves, including those listed as
26. threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.
27. We support directing additional dollars toward timely wolf
28. and grizzly bear predation mitigation. (2010)
29. We support simplification and enhancement of the Livestock Loss
30. Reduction Program in order to provide broad unambiguous access
31. to those indemnification resources. (2010)

ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. We recommend more consideration be given to those directly
2. affected at the local level by a species to determine whether or not it
3. should be listed as endangered.
4. We oppose the introduction or reintroduction of grizzly bears, gray
5. wolves or any other wild animal into any area.
6. We strongly oppose the reintroduction of wolves in the
7. continental United States. (2004)
8. In the event wolves and/or grizzly bears are removed from the
9. Endangered Species List, we urge the Montana Legislature to direct
10. the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and/or the Department of
11. Livestock to manage these animals in a manner that livestock and
12. other domestic animals, private and public property, and humans
13. will be protected. (1997)
14. We support compensation for probable wolf damage by the

15. appropriate state or federal agency. (1997)
16. We support the removal of wolves and/or grizzly bears from the
17. Endangered Species List and place them under the supervision of
18. the states where they are found. (1997)
19. We oppose listing Prairie Dogs on the threatened or endangered
20. species list. (2000)
21. We oppose grazing restrictions on any lands because of Prairie
22. Dog listing or delisting. (2000)
23. We oppose any implication that livestock grazing affects sage
24. grouse habitat. (2001)
25. We support the value of human life and safety above any other
26. species, whether endangered, threatened, or not listed. (2001)
27. We support the enhanced management of grizzly bear,
28. including relocation from farmsteads, homesteads and
29. other public settlements with emphasis on public
30. notification of problem bears. (2013)
31. We oppose listing of the sage grouse on the threatened or
32. endangered species list. (2003)
33. We recommend the hunting season of sage grouse be restricted to
34. the last week of October or the first week of November each year,
35. with a one-bird daily limit. (2005)

OUTFITTING/ TOURISM

1. We support legislation which would continue to allow private
2. landowners the privilege of outfitting and guiding on their own
3. private property as well as continue to maintain license set asides
4. for landowners and outfitters.
5. We support MT FWP using river guide use fees, on the river
6. where they were collected, for maintenance and weed control.
7. (2007)
8. We support improved trailheads on state and federal land to
9. encourage tourism. (2013)

PERSONAL LIABILITY

1. Property owners should not be liable for injuries to trespassers or
2. uninjured persons or to persons using their property, including along
3. the stream portions, for recreational purposes with or without
4. permission.
5. We recommend this protection be maintained. We also favor
6. liability exemption for rendering aid to injured persons.
7. Any person should be free to take any reasonable action he deems
8. necessary to protect himself, his family, his property or other people
9. without risk of prosecution or liability.
10. We support the environmental clean up of illegal drug
11. manufacturing, such as methamphetamine labs, being paid for by
12. perpetrator restitution and/or seizures of drug proceeds and
13. property. (2006)
14. Any insurance company licensed in the State of Montana shall be
15. required to notify the county treasurer's office of cancellation of any
16. vehicle liability policy within twenty (20) days. License holder
17. shall then be required to show proof of re insurance or license will
18. be revoked.
19. We support legislation limiting settlements in medical malpractice
20. suits and subsequent attorney fees.
21. Judges should be more stringent with their fines on uninsured
22. motorists.
23. We support legislation to limit the amount of liability and punitive
24. damages that may be awarded through the court system.
25. We support limiting punitive damages to \$1,000,000 (one million
26. dollars) above medical costs. (2003)
27. We support legislation to set limits on claims of pain and
28. suffering.
29. We support legislation that establishes a truly fault based liability
30. system as a first step in tort reform.
31. We support legislation that encourages structured settlements that
32. disburse payments over time.
33. We support legislation that forbids joint and several liability
34. judgments that force a marginally responsible defendant to pay the
35. entire claim.
36. We support legislation that penalizes parties who force frivolous
37. cases into lengthy court proceedings.
38. We oppose the Judicial Branch's interpretation and
39. implementation of liability insurance stacking. (2003)
40. We oppose legislation which would mandate the use of
41. personal safety equipment in any livestock handling, rodeo or
42. equine sporting and recreational events. We further oppose any
43. legislation or judicial action which would result in a livestock or
44. property owner being liable for injury sustained by another
45. person who elected to forego the use of personal safety
46. equipment while participating in a livestock handling, rodeo or
47. equine activity. (2009)

TRAFFIC CONTROL

1. We recommend that speed control be enforced through rural
2. towns. (2004)
3. Speed limits on unpaved county roads should be no more than 55
4. mph unless otherwise posted. (2004)
5. We oppose split speed limits on Montana highways. (2009)

TRANSPORTATION

1. We support the State of Montana developing a sound, long-

2. range transportation policy encompassing all modes of
3. transportation and provide development of a comprehensive,
4. competitive economical and energy efficient way of meeting
5. Montana's transportation needs for the future. (2006)
6. We oppose off-highway vehicles and machines coming under the
7. jurisdiction of a regular compulsory vehicle inspection law. (2001)
8. We recommend agriculture be exempted from compliance with
9. the Federal Motor Carrier safety regulations.
10. We oppose legislation transferring gas tax funds to uses other than
11. roads. (2001)
12. We support mediation and arbitration of rate and service issues
13. between producers and railroads. (2008)
14. We oppose Burlington Northern Santa Fe's proposed reduction in
15. loading time of rail cars from 48 to 24 hours prior to charging
16. demurrage. (1997)
17. We support the multi origin loading to meet the 52 car or lesser
18. car numbers relating to the Burlington Northern rate structure.
19. We recommend railroads charge uniform rates for like
20. commodities that are in direct proportion to the distance the
21. commodity is hauled.
22. We recommend the Surface Transportation Board (STB) end the
23. practice of railroads charging higher rates in captive markets than
24. they do in competitive markets. We recommend railroads which
25. serve captive markets be forced to open their trackage to competing
26. carriers. (2006)
27. We support the development of spur lines or the utilization of
28. track rights to connect to the Canadian Pacific Railroad. (2005)
29. **We support the Gateway Pacific terminal at Cherry Point,**
30. **Washington. (2015)**
31. We recommend that all gasoline powered state owned vehicles be
32. required to use a motor fuel that contains a substantial portion of a
33. fuel that is derived from an agricultural product. This rule or law is
34. to be implemented at any time such an agricultural product is being
35. commercially produced in Montana in a quantity sufficient and
36. economically feasible to fulfill this requirement.
37. Considerable interest is being shown in the possibility of barge
38. transportation on the Missouri River to the head of Fort Peck Lake.
39. Considering the impact that such a project would have on the entire
40. Montana economy, it is essential that aspects be given full
41. consideration including water requirements and availability. Studies
42. have been made by the Missouri River Basin Commission and
43. Corps of Engineers regarding this project. We pledge cooperation
44. provided the transportation rates will cover the construction and
45. maintenance of the project. The available information should be
46. brought to the attention of the general public.
47. Any pipeline or power line operating intrastate by a company
48. enjoying eminent domain shall be required to make excess capacity
49. available for hire.
50. We recommend any large agricultural farm to market truck be
51. allowed an automatic 20% over weight allowance and that axle
52. weight be averaged.
53. We oppose allowing any government agency access to scale
54. tickets or bills of lading for the purpose of enforcement of truck
55. weight laws.
56. We recommend that overweight livestock trucks be allowed to
57. proceed to the nearest public livestock market, on their designated
58. route, before reducing the weight of their load.
59. We recommend that ag related equipment up to 16 feet wide on a
60. public road not require flagmen. (2001)
61. We are opposed to any railroad construction which would disrupt
62. any irrigable land in the Tongue River drainage.
63. We are opposed to any railroad construction which would disrupt
64. any on going range research studies on the United States
65. Department of Agriculture Livestock and Range Research Station at
66. Miles City, Montana.
67. We oppose the use of Montana water in coal slurry pipelines.
68. We recommend that bandwagons and anhydrous ammonia trailers
69. be exempt from license, Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) and brakes
70. when being transported by the farmer or owner of the trailer from
71. the place of filling to the field.
72. We recommend farm: trucks, trailers and semi trailers be exempt
73. from commercial taxes unless used for commercial purposes.
74. We oppose the requirement of agricultural drivers to have a
75. commercial drivers license. (2004)
76. Size of ranch signs on private property should not be restricted
77. because of proximity to a primary or interstate highway.
78. Farmer owned equipment used to transport farm machinery from
79. field to field on public roads should not require a license. (1997)
80. We oppose laws requiring mandatory headlight usage on all
81. vehicles during daylight hours. (1998)
82. We support extending the period of license plate replacement.
83. (2001)
84. We support state and county designation on all license
85. plates. (2010)
86. We support removing the restrictions on the distances a
87. vehicle can travel within the State of Montana under existing
88. farm tag exemptions without a CDL. (2010)
89. We oppose the railroad requiring permits on existing
90. crossways. (2012)

RESEARCH

1. We recommend that the legislature make a long term commitment
2. to adequately fund the Montana Ag Experiment Stations and
3. Extension Service.
4. Livestock diseases continue to be a serious problem. We urge
5. provision of adequate funds for research and program
6. implementation necessary to eradicate or control these diseases.
7. We support research efforts for biological control of noxious
8. weeds and insect pests.
9. We recommend funding be allocated for research and control of
10. noxious weeds.
11. We support research to control ground squirrels, pocket gophers
12. and moles.
13. We support and encourage legislation for new funding of the
14. Montana ag experiment stations bio-control and integrated weed
15. management research positions. (2005)
16. We support increased research for farm produced green manures
17. and other fertility systems which can replace commercial fertilizer.
18. (2005)
19. We support research into finding cleaner methods of producing
20. energy, with emphasis on clean coal technology. (2009)

TECHNOLOGY

1. **We encourage manufacturers work together for universal**
2. **compatibility standards for precision agriculture technologies**
3. **and equipment. (2015)**

HEALTH & SAFETY

4. We recommend greater use of non-physician providers to help
5. relieve personnel mal-distribution in the medical profession; non-
6. physician providers include nurse practitioners, physician's
7. assistants, nurse midwives and nurse anesthetists. We also urge the
8. establishment of additional educational programs for these
9. professions (non-physician providers).
10. We recommend all medical schools (1) be required to have a
11. family medicine department, (2) direct additional funds toward
12. family medicine departments, and (3) provide more support to
13. family practice residences.
14. We are opposed to the practice of using different fee schedules
15. based on whether or not a patient has insurance, higher for the
16. insured, known as "price gouging" by hospitals, clinics, other
17. medical practitioners and facilities.
18. We believe that health care is primarily the responsibility of the
19. individual.
20. We support the right of the individual to choose both physicians
21. and medical facilities.
22. We oppose employer mandates for insuring employees.
23. We believe basic health insurance coverage should include routine
24. preventive health care and be portable or transferable for the
25. individual holder and/or family.
26. A health insurance company shall not deny benefits otherwise
27. provided under the plan or coverage for the treatment of an injury
28. solely because such injury resulted from the participation of the
29. plan participant in a legal transportation or legal recreational
30. activity. (2004)
31. We recommend all landowners and public permittees be offered
32. the "standards for survival" fire fighting course annually. (2000)
33. We oppose the forced sale of assets of the surviving spouse for
34. Medicaid coverage during admission to a nursing home. (2004)
35. We support research for the prevention and treatment of West
36. Nile Virus. (2011)
37. We oppose any mandatory government sponsored national
38. health insurance program. (2009)

UNITED NATIONS

1. We support reforming the United Nations to improve integrity,
2. efficiency and accountability.
3. We support defining the United Nations' purpose as consistently
4. advocating representative governments, the rule of law and human
5. rights. If these reforms cannot be made, we recommend the United
6. States withdraw as soon as possible from the United Nations and
7. the United Nations relocate outside the boundaries of the United
8. States of America. (2005)
9. We oppose any action of the United Nations which supercedes the
10. constitution of the United States. (2001)
11. We are opposed to any influence or control by the United Nations
12. upon any public land or waters owned by the U.S. Government or
13. its territories.

96TH MONTANA FARM BUREAU ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

NOVEMBER 8-11 | HILTON GARDEN | MISSOULA

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MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT

NOVEMBER 8-11 | HILTON GARDEN INN | MISSOULA



More than 400 Montana Farm Bureau members traveled to Missoula in November to participate in all of the activities held during the 96th Annual MFBF Convention. The event kicked off Sunday with the Small Landowners Seminar which was open to the public and focused on finding and growing niche ag markets. Monday began with American Farm Bureau Public Policy Deputy Director Dale Moore speaking candidly about issues in D.C. at the Century Club Breakfast followed by MFBF President Bob Hanson's address and Montana Governor Steve Bullock's review of the importance of agriculture in Montana. Members attended a variety of workshops ranging from beekeeping and GMO

research to embryo transfer in cattle. Monday's luncheon speaker was Joe Ritzman of SSA Marine whose company is developing the Gateway Pacific Terminal in Washington State. Monday afternoon featured two preliminary rounds of the Discussion Meet followed by the Final Four Meet. The Delegate Session began Tuesday morning with day-long review, discussion and votes on Farm Bureau policy. The Tuesday evening Awards Banquet was capped by the popular Peterson Farm Brothers who provided an entertaining look at how their YouTube videos show their ag advocacy to the world. (View many more photos on the Montana Farm Bureau Federation Facebook Page)

DELEGATE SESSION



Jill Streit and Vince Mattson, Hill-Liberty-Blaine County Farm Bureau, show off their basket of goodies. County Farm Bureaus who had a full slate of delegates received the snack basket.



MFBF President Bob Hanson opens the delegate session.



Park County delegates listen intently to the discussion about public lands policy.



District 1 Director Troy Kurth visits with Pat Ellis of the WIPFLI accounting firm.

AWARDS BANQUET



The Peterson Brothers talk about how their entertaining farm work videos became internationally popular.



Bernie Evans accepts the Distinguished Service Award from MFBF President Bob Hanson.



Riley Denning checks out Farm Bureau Chevy Silverado that will be given away at the 2016 MFBF Annual Convention in Billings.



View many more photos on the Montana Farm Bureau Federation Facebook Page



Gil Gasper and Patrick Hackley show off their wacky duds.



Montana Governor Steve Bullock stops by the Farm Bureau booth to show how is connected to agriculture.

PEOPLE



Helen Hanson visits with Jim Pfau and Phil Johnstone.



Long-time Farm Bureau members Bonnie and Jules Marchesseault all dressed up for the Awards Banquet.



Cheryl Jensen, right, with nephew Lee and wife Lily.



Scott Seilstad with his grandbaby says you are never too young to attend the convention.

EVENTS



YF&R and Women's Leadership Committee read "The Beeman" to students at Cold Springs Elementary in Missoula. Pictured is WLC member Lauren Lackman reading to the students.



MF&B Executive Vice President John Youngberg, Vice President Hans McPherson and speaker Dale Moore, American Farm Bureau, share a chuckle during the Century Club Breakfast.



The Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet Finals brought tough competition as a Polaris Ranger was the prize. Pictured are Lacey Sutherland and Jennie Anderson. Anderson won the competition and Ranger.



The Bull & Heifer Show took place in the parking lot adjacent to the hotel. MSU Steer A Year Club helped with the show.



Phillips County Farm Bureau President Tom DePuydt shows off the quota prize. The County Farm Bureau was newly formed in January 2015.



Workshop presenter Jim Larson talks about Ag Safety and how slowing down on your ATV can save your life.



Farm Bureau Feud provided great entertainment during the Presidents and Secretaries Breakfast Tuesday morning.

County News

County Farms Bureaus kept their momentum going following their county annual meetings in September. Two-thirds of the counties boasted a full slate of voting delegates to the MFBF Convention in Missoula in November. Later in the month and into December, many counties held Christmas parties, socials and board meetings.

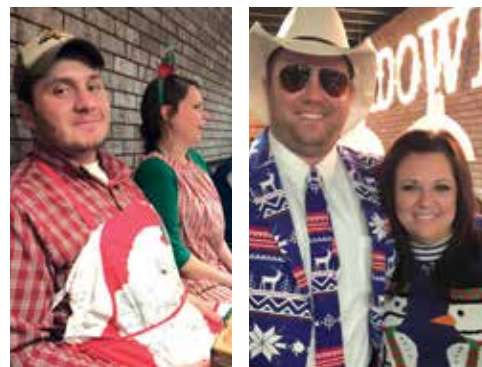
Big Horn County Farm Bureau awarded two FFA jackets to Shaunita Nomee from Lodge Grass High School and Mariah Simmons from Hardin High School. The Blue Jacket Bonanza was organized to provide FFA students the opportunity to earn their own FFA jacket based on need, community service, leadership skills and a commitment to the FFA program.



Mariah Simmons, Big Horn FFA, received her FFA jacket from Big Horn County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Chair Holly Higgins. Big Horn County Farm Bureau and First Interstate Bank sponsored the jackets for two students. The other recipient was Shaunita Nomee of Little Big Horn FFA.

Richland County Farm Bureau hosted an Ugly Sweater Christmas party along with "food raiser" to collect food for the local food bank. Dawson-Wibaux County Farm Bureau, Southwest Counties Farm Bureau and Fergus County Farm Bureau all held Christmas parties during December.

Richland County Farm Bureau Vice President Patrick Hackley and his wife, Nicole (far right) at their county's ugly sweater party. Also pictured are Ben and Karli Johnson.



Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Gallatin, Lewis & Clark and Meagher County Farm Bureaus all held board meetings in November and/or December.

Montana Farm Bureau District 8 and District 9 Directors Ed Bandel and Ken Johnson talk about the benefits of belonging to Montana Farm Bureau during Montana Pulse Day December 9 in Great Falls.

Chouteau County Farm Bureau had a busy autumn. They sponsored homecoming football and volleyball in Fort Benton, a volleyball game in Highwood and Geraldine and a football game in Big Sandy. In 2016, Chouteau County Farm Bureau will sponsor the Big Sandy basketball game January 22; the Highwood basketball game February 4; and the Geraldine basketball game February 12. At each of these games,

\$100 worth of concession coupons will be given to the crowd. The county will donate \$100 worth of water to the concession stand for sale to benefit the group running concessions that evening. The county will hold a board meeting Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. at Pep's Bar in Big Sandy and everyone is welcome to attend. Be sure to check out their new Facebook page, Chouteau County Farm Bureau.

The Yellowstone County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee read the Accurate Ag Book "What's In My Lunchbox" to kindergarten students at Shepherd Elementary School. The fifth graders in Miss Breeze's class at Forsyth Elementary wrote thank you notes to farmers and ranchers and sent them to the American Farm Bureau to be distributed.

Teddi Vogel reads the book "What's In My Lunchbox" to kindergarten students at Shepherd Elementary as part of Yellowstone County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee event.





Polaris & Farm Bureau **A WINNING COMBINATION!**

Congratulations to Jennie Anderson of Big Timber for earning top honors in the MFBF YF&R Discussion Meet. Jenny is a proud owner of a new Polaris Ranger 570!

A huge thank you to our participating Polaris dealers!

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Redline Sports, Inc - Butte
Pure Bliss Cycle - Conrad
Helena Cycle Center - Helena
Lewistown Honda & Polaris - Lewistown
Sports City Cyclery - Great Falls

Hamilton Polaris/KTM - Hamilton
Kurt's Polaris - Missoula
Montana Power Products - Libby
Ronan Power Products - Ronan
Gallatin Recreation - Bozeman
Hi-Line Polaris - Havre
Riverside Marine and Cycle - Miles City
Yellowstone Polaris - Billings

For more information on the YF&R Program and how to get involved, go to www.mfbf.org or contact Sue Ann Streufert at sueanns@mfbf.org, (406) 587-3153.



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Young Farmers and Ranchers donate time, money and skills

Discussion Meets

A highlight this year for the Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee was giving away a new Polaris Ranger to the winner of the MFBF Discussion Meet at the MFBF Annual Convention in November in Missoula. Thanks to participating Montana Polaris dealers, Big Timber rancher Jennie Anderson was the excited recipient of the side-by-side. Anderson said she was thrilled to win the Discussion Meet and receive the Polaris Ranger. Anderson has been



Jennie Anderson, Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet winner, is presented with the Polaris key by Dale Bakken, Kurt's Polaris, Missoula.

on the MFBF YF&R Committee for two years and been active with the Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau for four years. In addition to winning the Ranger, she received an all-expense paid trip to compete in the national YF&R competition in Orlando in January during the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention.

Several county Farm Bureaus across the state hosted regional YF&R Discussion Meets which helped prepare competitors for the state competition. The Collegiate Farm Bureaus each held a Discussion Meet: Austin Standley won the competition at Montana State University and Cole Snider bested the competitors at UM-Western. Both Standley and Snider will compete at the National Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference in February in Kansas City.

Leadership News

Gilmen Gasper from Circle was elected as the new MFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee Chair, replacing Jenny Stovall of Billings. The committee thanks Jenny for all of her hard work as the chair over the past two years. Patrick and Nicole Hackley have been selected to serve on the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. Congratulations to Gil, Nicole and Patrick.

Convention Activities

The committee hosted the YF&R Luncheon with keynote speaker Joe Ritzman, vice president of SSA Marine. Ritzman discussed the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal which, if approved, would provide the best way to access Asian markets for Montana coal and grain. The



MFBF YF&R Chair Gil Gasper works on an educational bee activity with kids at Cold Springs Elementary School in Missoula.

Committee also participated in Accurate Ag Books reading of "The Beeman" at Cold Springs Grade School in Missoula. Members of the committee and the Women's Leadership Committee read this educational children's book about raising bees, which included several fun activities.

Hoofin' It Fundraiser

In October, the committee and Fort Keogh hosted the Hoofin' It for Hunger Trail Run, a 5K, 10K and half marathon at Fort Keogh in Miles City to raise money for the Montana Food Bank Network. A check for \$6,000 was presented to Bill Mathews, chief development officer, MFBN. To date, YF&R Committee has raised \$30,000 for the Food Bank with the Hoofin' It for Hunger race.

Montana Farm Bureau election results



Bob Hanson, a cattle rancher from White Sulphur Springs, was re-elected as president of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation during Montana Farm Bureau's 96th Annual Convention in November in Missoula. **Hans McPherson**, a diversified farmer from Stevensville, was re-elected as vice president.

Re-elected to the Board of Directors were **Troy Kurth**, who operates TK Quarter Horses in Missoula, District 1; **Jennifer Bergin**, a cattle rancher from Melstone, District 3, **Tom DePuydt**, a cattle rancher from Saco, District 7 and **Ken Johnson** a wheat farmer from Conrad, District 9. Newly elected to the board was **Gary Heibertshausen**, a sheep rancher from Alzada, District 5.

Gretchen Schubert from Huntley returns as the Women's Leadership Committee Chair, with **Gil Gasper** from Circle as the newly elected Young Farmer and Rancher Chair.

The Montana Farm Bureau is the state's largest agricultural organization with more than 21,000 members.

Elected district chairs for the Women's Leadership Committee Committee:

District 2: Rhonda Boyd - Alder / Becky Stuart - Dillon;
District 4: Lisa McFarland - Billings/ Carla Lawrence - Bridger
District 6: Nicole Hackley - Culberston / Tina Rehbein - Lambert
District 8: Cindy Denning - Sun River / Kayla Bandel - Floweree
District 10: Carole Plymale - Townsend / Lori Vennes
- Townsend

Elected District Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee:

District 2: Michael Stuart - Dillon / Hope Kincheloe - Dillon
District 4: Jenny Stovall - Billings / Jennie Anderson - Big Timber
District 6: Ben Johnson - Sidney / Lee Jensen - Circle
District 8: Todd Standley - Ulm
District 10: Tyler Hamm - White Sulphur Springs / Sophi Davis
- Springdale

Special Elections to fill FY&R Committee vacancy.

District 7: Wendy Majerus (one year term) - Saco

District 5: John Olson (one year term) - Broadus

County Events

Next Gen Conference in Shelby

Montana's Next Generation Conference will be held January 29-30 in Shelby. Hosted in part by the **Front Range County Farm Bureau** the conference will provide both succession planning for the agricultural operation and producer education for beginning and experienced producers. The event kicks off Friday at 1 p.m. with Kevin Spafford of Legacy by Design, LLC. Spafford will lead participants through an introductory succession planning session that will include hands-on activities for all generations. During the evening, there will be a trade show and dinner. Saturday provides more estate planning workshops along with extensive educational seminars for crop farmers, livestock ranchers and those interested in financial issues.

Registration forms are available online at http://www.mariasriverlivestock.com/next_generation_conference.html, or by calling 406-873-2239. Updates will be available via the Facebook page, Montana's Next Generation Conference. Cost is \$20/individual/day, or \$30/couple/day if registrations are submitted by the January 15 Early Bird deadline. Watch for conference updates and daily workshop spotlights on the Facebook page, Montana's Next Generation Conference.

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The Fear Babe: Shattering Vani Hari's Glass House

BY MARK ALSIP, KAVIN SENAPATHY AND MARC DRACO

I received an email from the authors of *The Fear Babe: Shattering Vani Hari's Glass House* asking if I'd like a review copy. After reading through their summary, I decided it would make an interesting read. I received the book as a Kindle file which is not my preferred method, but I tackled the book. I was up past midnight engrossed with what the authors had to say.

The book is written by Mark Alsip, Kevin Senapathy and Marc Draco who became concerned primarily with allegations of Vani Hari, known as the Food Babe. The Food Babe has no science background but has an army of followers who follow her every word that chemicals are bad, detoxing is good, raw milk is safer and more nutritious than pasteurized milk, pesticides will kill you, and more. They describe the entire disturbing phenomena of people not listening to science but to gurus instead.

The forward talks about Al Quesadilla, the food terrorist that strikes in a time period when there is an abundance of food in this country that's never been safer.

"Who is Al Quesadilla? Al Quesadilla

is a moniker ascribed to a modern day elite and well-financed terrorist faction, sworn to use fear to force political change around food. Al Quesadilla has a central mission—to impose their beliefs about food and food production on the broader society. Their beliefs are religious in nature. They are deeply heartfelt and internalized. Their beliefs are grounded in a misinterpretation of nature, a mistrust of corporate culture, and a skepticism of modern science. Al Quesadilla's central holy tenets were not forged from rigorous hypothesis testing by trained scientists. Instead, they are kooky hunches spawned from abject ignorance, an activist crusade, or a hint of reality wrapped in fearful impossibility. This is a religion that wants your money,



wants your vote, and wants you to change the fundamental way you eat. It is a movement fighting to install change, even if it harms the environment, brings hardship to the needy, destroys farmers, or results in fewer choices for the average consumer."

It's a very detailed book with scientific explanations of chemical compounds, food additives, body processes and more, but the authors worked hard to keep information and research reader friendly and fascinating. They tackled every fallacy from the anti-vaccine trend, to GMOs and pesticide use, to sugar and sugar alternatives and so much more. Take a glance at the extensive table of contents which is overwhelming as they take on myth after myth after half-truth perpetrated by the Food Babe and the Al Quesadilla army.

You owe it to yourself to read this book and glean scientific facts about food and the myths. Buy this book and plan to spend a while curled up in a chair reading. It's intriguing.

– Rebecca Colnar

Order *The Fear Babe* from your local book store or visit <http://www.amazon.com/Fear-Babe-Shattering-Haris-Glass/dp/069250981X/>





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¹ Offer available through 4/30/15. Available on all 2014 and 2015 Chevrolet vehicles. This offer is not available with some other offers, including private offers. Only customers who have been active members of an eligible Farm Bureau for a minimum of 60 days will be eligible to receive a certificate. Customers can obtain certificates at www.fbverify.com/gm. Farm Bureau and the FB logo are registered service marks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used herein under license by General Motors. ² Dependability based on longevity: 1987–April 2013 Full-Size Pickup registrations.



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Jason Harrison, Harrison Angus Ranch, Boyd, MT

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Steve Williams, Midland Bull Test, Columbus, MT

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Brent McRae, 2015 MT Angus Association President, Big Dry Angus Ranch Jordan, MT

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